

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

September 2009

"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



"As surely as sparks fly upward," Job observed, "man was born for hardship." Murphy's Law does sometimes appear to be repeatable and verifiable. His lesser known first postulate was something along the lines of: "Things will go from bad to worse and then the cycle repeats itself."

"Murphy," according to bumper stickers, "was an optimist." It makes you wonder what must have happened in the life of the car owner that led them to advertise such a thing. I wouldn't tailgate them if I were you...just in case.

There can, indeed, be a sort of comfort derived from this kind of worldview. Keep your expectations low, brace for disaster as inevitable and don't get you hopes up. This way, the thinking goes, "When Murphy shows up it might not be as bad as I have already imagined it will be." It is a deep-seated form of what feels to be justified self-protection. From what?

These defeatists, of course, have their foils. Pollyanna just knows everything will come up roses. Denial is raised to a noble status, and any hint of news that would suggest dark clouds actually gathering is dismissed with a fierceness that startles.

This is a worldview that goes beyond innocence or even naïveté, and has become a closed choice. Imagine a world filled with folks like Inspector Jacques Clouseau, who after falling down a flight of stairs, hopped up and declared: "That felt guuud." This perspective provides a sort of comfort as well: "Nothing can get me that I can't minimize away." It also is a deep-seated form of what feels to be justified self-protection. From what?

Both these camps of extremists consider themselves the realists, (compared to the other option at least), and both are dangerously numb. Both can carry their particular bias with an air of having special claim to the high moral ground. Both tend to seek and find like-minded company, and can develop whole theologies and denominations to keep their momentum going. Oddly, if they marry, both often tend to choose their opposite. The tensions are over whose style of self-protection is best.

Here are some questions: If both extremes are (sinfully) designed by us to protect ourselves in some way, from what are we trying to protect ourselves? What is at stake? What makes it feel so reasonable and justified for some to insist on approaching life like this?

I'd like to leave these as personal questions for us all to ponder, prompted by the statement in Ecclesiastes 7:18b: "the one who fears God will avoid all extremes." If neither worldview sketched out above sounds at all familiar to your own thinking at times, read Genesis 22:1-3 and put yourself in Abraham's sandals. Consider what your thoughts would have been during the long night between vs.2 and vs.3, and how those thoughts might then impact the quality of your worship when God speaks to you again later in the story. And one last question: How might facing and praying about your particular tendency also impact your closest human relationships?

-Randy Good

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## Fall quarter Sunday school plans

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### Following the summer break, Sunday school classes resume on September 6.

**Adult Second Hour:** For the fall quarter we will be using the Sunday school materials from Mennonite Publishing Network, entitled *Covenant Communities*. The scriptures include Joshua, Judges, Ezra, Nehemiah, Mark, and I and II Peter. As we have done in the past, we may from time to time, as the Spirit nudges, substitute a Second Hour conversation relating to the day's sermon.

- Ted Shattuck

**Children's Classes:** The children's lessons in the Gather Round curriculum, also from Mennonite Publishing Network, cover stories from the last part of the Old Testament. Each family with children will receive a "talkabout" to reinforce the Bible stories at home during the week. Once again we have a gifted, caring team of adults to mentor our children during the Second Hour. Nancy Pejouhy and Jane Glick will teach the nursery-kindergarten class; Fred Schlabach and Mike McCrory will teach grades 1-5; Janet North will lead the children's music; and Elinor Shattuck and Mary Guntz will serve as substitutes.

- Virginia Schlabach



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### Groton camping weekend – Community with each other, communion with God and nature

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*The annual congregational camping weekend at Groton, Vermont, drew around 30 people August. The variety and richness of the experience is reflected in the comments that follow. Every family who was camping was asked to give two endings to a sentence. Those words will begin each of the comment, which follows.*

#### **Our family enjoys camping at Groton with our church family because...**

...of the relaxed proximity to each other. It somehow is more like I imagine church community could be-visiting and sharing in an informal and natural setting. – *Randy Good*

...of the opportunity to share such a beautiful place together - the come and go, laugh and play, eat and sing, splash and hike, talk and pray - all in the most joyful cathedral of creation. – *Carie Good*

...I enjoy being able to spend time in the outdoors with my church family in the camp setting that I love so much. - *Jane Glick*

...I like coming camping so I don't have to bathe. - *Seth Dandurand*

...camping has a relaxed atmosphere that encourages cross-generational fellowship between diverse church traditions. - *Russell and Nancy Pejouhy*

...we get to know better our church family outside of Sunday morning at Taftsville. - *Russell and Nancy*

...it's a nice, relaxing, peaceful atmosphere to get to know the church family. - *Roy Aloisio and Dottie Herrick*

...of the peaceful relaxing atmosphere in which to commune with God. He blesses us so much with His beauty. - *Roy and Dottie*

...it offers a brief taste of the "community" aspects of church life that we all wish for, even as we are geographically separated. Nice to be close to others and have time to visit and know each other better. - *Ted Shattuck*

...I enjoy the setting because it reminds me of my childhood and growing up on a small pond in Plymouth, MA. - *Ted*

...it reminds me of cooking over the fire when we camped in Botswana. - *Elinor Shattuck*

...we get to play on the Coxes' raft and paddle it across the lake. - *Beidlers*

...Clara enjoyed her swimming lesson with Karen Cox. - *Swansons*

...Dave enjoys "good talks, fun games, good music and good food". - *Swansons*

...Caren loved sleeping outside, swimming, singing and great conversations. - *Swansons*

...it's great to have our church family for neighbors. - *Richard and Ruth Ann Glick*

...the beauty of nature around us is so awesome. We enjoy the songs of the loons. - *Richard and Ruth Ann*

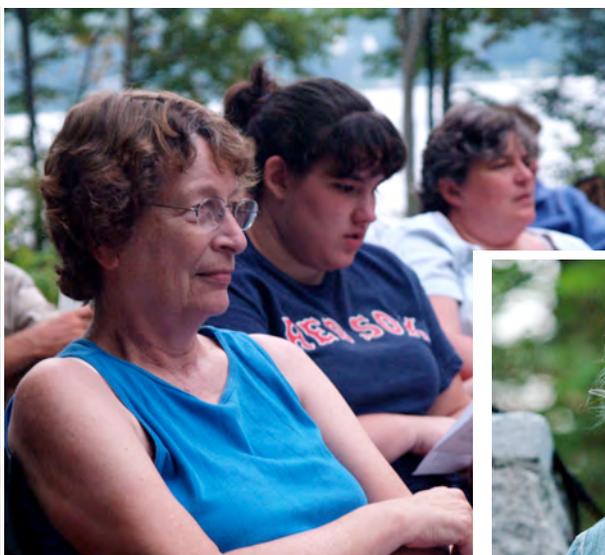
...we have an opportunity to get to know folks in another setting. Did you know that Dave Swanson is a songwriter? Ask him about his song "I think I just became Mennonite Blues". - *Beidlers*

...it brings us together. The chance to share so many different activities with each other builds our friendships. Sharing a meal together, boating, hiking, swimming, enjoying a campfire together, great conversation, being multi-generational: it's a win win experience for everyone. I'm so grateful for all the rich memories. I think it enhances all our lives, builds our community. - *Karen Cox*

- *Compiled by Ruth Ann Glick*



**Richard, the Happy Camper!**



**Ruth Ann, Laura & Carmeleta during worship time.**



**Clare with special cup at camp.**

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## Getting to know you...

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### Ruth Jantzi Miller

I was born during the Great Depression just outside of Martinsburg, New York, on a dairy farm. I was the second child of six children. My best memories of my childhood were of playing active games outside in the field and creek and in the barn along with my siblings and cousins who lived close-by. I attended a two-room school, which I walked about a mile each day to and from. One of my best memories during my time in elementary school was of learning poetry. Following high school, I attended Eastern Mennonite College for a year; then obtained a nursing degree in Watertown, New York, and affiliated in New York City, where I first met my husband, Howard.

We were married for 52 years. During that time we lived in New Jersey, while Howard was in 1-W service; in Boston while he completed his nurses training; and in Charleston, West Virginia, while he completed his anesthesia training. During that time I worked as a psychiatric nurse. Once Howard completed his training, we moved to North Carolina, where we were soon blessed with two daughters, Heidi and Carmeleta. When the opportunity arose to return to my home community, we packed up our family and returned to Lewis County, New York. Shortly thereafter, our two sons, Howard Daniel and Sven, were born. I was a stay-at-home mom until the children were in high school. I then resumed my nursing career at our local general hospital, working in the emergency room and then on a medical/surgical unit.

During my childhood my family attended Lowville Conservative Mennonite Church. I was baptized into the Mennonite Church when I was 15 years old. I helped to teach Sunday school and vacation Bible school. I was married wearing a cape dress and a covering, and my husband wore a plain suit.

In 1986 we had an opportunity to go to the Philippines along with a team of volunteers from Youth for Christ to set up a medical clinic for "squatters" in Manila. Our daughter, Heidi accompanied us there. After our retirement from the hospital, Howard and I wanted to do some additional volunteer work. We checked with Mennonite Board of Missions and were given a

3-month assignment in Liberia, a small country in Western Africa. This was during a lull in their civil war. We worked at a medical clinic until their medical caregivers could return from behind rebel lines. We observed the devastation that war can do to a modern city. That was a very rich experience.

My husband and I loved to travel. We have traveled to all 50 states, France, Switzerland, and the Caribbean. While the children were in high school, we took six weeks during the summer to travel in a 20-foot motor home to the west coast and back. We have been blessed with many great opportunities to see God's creation.

Our children have all married, and are scattered from Colorado to Pennsylvania to Vermont. They have given me nine unique grandchildren, who are delightful. Now, while living with Laura and Ben, I am learning to know them even better.

I lost the love of my life, Howard, rather suddenly two years ago. I then lived for about a year and a half with my sister just outside of Lowville, New York. My daughter Carmeleta then graciously invited me to live with her here in Vermont. I appreciate my new church family and look forward to getting to know you all better. Thank you for being so welcoming.



Ruth with her daughter's family - The Beidlers  
David, Laura, Ben and Carmeleta

## **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bethany Birches Benefit Auction**

Be sure the date of September 26 is on your calendar as that will be the 7<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 21 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



46x58" wall hanging, machine pieced and hand quilted by Mary Guntz (made from basket of fabric donated by Ruth Ann Glick and purchased by Mary at the 2008 auction; donated by Mary to the 2009 auction)



Framed silk-screened print "Haley on II" - edition 40 - by acclaimed American artist Edward Landon (1911-1984) who lived in Weston, VT; print is accompanied by news clipping about the artist (donated to 2009 auction by Lynda Knisley)

## Back to School 2009

Please post this list or tuck it into your Bible as a reminder to pray for these church family members:

### STUDENTS

Seth Dandurand - Hartford High School - 12  
Aaron Segura - Hanover High School - 12  
Hudson Cox - Sharon Academy - 11  
\*Dimitri Eisenberg - Kearsarge Regional High School - 10  
Gabrielle Webber - Hartford High School - 10  
Ben Beidler - Hartford High School - 9  
Victoria Dandurand - Hartford High School - 9  
Hayden Cox - Hartford High School - 9  
Noah Wilson - Hartland Elementary - 8  
Hannah Cox - Hartland Elementary - 6  
Addison Wanner - Crossroads Academy - 6  
Seth Eisenberg - Kearsarge Regional Elementary - 5  
Gavin Eisenberg - Kearsarge Regional Elementary - 3  
Micah Schlabach - Barnard Academy - 3  
Lena Wanner - Crossroads Academy - 2  
Calvin McCrory - Dothan Brook Elementary - 1  
Mabel McCrory - Dothan Brook Elementary - K  
College:  
Laura Beidler - Eastern Mennonite University - 2nd year - biology/pre-med  
Ruth Ellen Dandurand - Eastern Mennonite University - 4th year - liberal arts/nursing to continue after graduation  
Haylie Cox - Northern Virginia Community College  
Hunter Cox - St. John's College - 1st year  
Emily Glick - University of Vermont - 1st year - political science

### TEACHERS

Kristen Aloisio - Dartmouth College - teaching assistant, public health dept.  
Melissa Ayers - Windsor Southeast - speech and language  
Skip Chalker - Mascoma Valley Regional High School - English  
Allison Good - 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



## Schedule for September

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

### September

- 5 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast / *Dana’s*
- 6 11:00 am – Sunday School Resumes
- 12 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast / *Dana’s*
- 13 Afternoon Open House at Nick & Heather Wolfe’s home
- 18 Pastoral Care Team Meeting
- 20 Leadership Team Meeting
- 26 10:00 am – BBC Auction, Preview at 9:00/*Quechee Gorge Village*

**Second “Annual”  
 Congregational Meeting  
 to revisit  
 the church budget**

**Sunday, October 18  
 during the Second Hour**

Activities will be provided  
 for pre-school and  
 elementary children

Followed by  
 potluck fellowship meal

### Birthdays

#### September

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

### Anniversary

#### September

- 20 Brian & Marcia Alderfer

### Childcare

#### September

- 6 Dave/Caren Swanson
- 13 Jane Glick
- 20 Janet North
- 27 Nancy Pejouhy

### Song Leaders

#### September

- 6 Janet North
- 13 Janice Zook
- 20 Carmeleta Beidler
- 27 Richard Glick

### Coffee

#### September

- 6 R & R Glick
- 13 Karen Cox
- 20 K & J Glick
- 27 Janet North

### Cleaning

#### September

- 5 Wolfe
- 12 Wolfe
- 19 Zook
- 27 Zook

### Mowing

#### September

- 5 Wolfe
- 12 Wolfe
- 19 ?
- 26 ?

## Treasurer’s Report

Below are the offerings beginning this Fiscal Year – **July 5<sup>th</sup> through August 16<sup>th</sup>**. While this may look impressive (almost \$2800 more than expected!!), our expenses were also higher than budgeted. We are in much better shape than we were a few months ago, but not out of the woods yet. - *Tim Good*

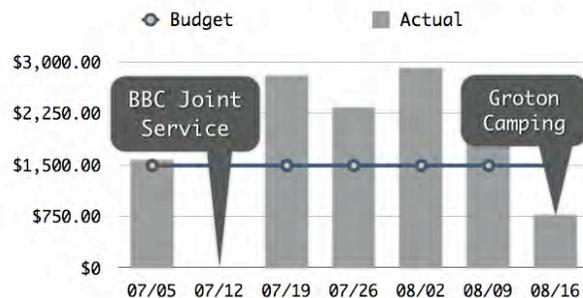
### Taftsville Tally

| July          | Attendance               | Offering   |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 5             | ?                        | \$1,570.00 |
| 12            | <i>BBC Joint Service</i> |            |
| 19            | 60                       | \$2,800.00 |
| 26            | 55                       | \$2,335.30 |
| <b>August</b> |                          |            |
| 2             | 46                       | \$2,920.00 |
| 9             | 46                       | 2,120.00   |
|               | <i>Youth Offering</i>    | \$61.50    |
| 16            | 10                       | \$770.00   |

### Totals:

Budgeted Offerings ---\$10,432.69  
 Actual Offerings -----\$13,218.05  
**Weekly Budget is \$1,490**

## Weekly Offering



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## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

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*Do you remember when...*

### 45 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*September 7, 1964*

John and Ruth Lutz celebrate their FIRST wedding anniversary.

### 40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*September 21, 1969*

At a special congregational meeting, it was decided to withdraw \$300 on a demand note with the Mennonite Mission Board to give to Bethany Birches Camp to help pay for the addition of a pavilion.

### 35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*September 15, 1974*

The Whip-Poor-'will Haven Rest Home in Quechee welcomes our group to sing and visit with them. Since their facilities are small, we will go in small groups.

### 30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*September 1, 1979*

The trustees will post a list for monthly housekeepers (all families), and responsibilities.

*September 16, 1979*

The Bike Hike will begin at 2:30 PM. All persons participating should bring a picnic lunch for supper.

### 25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*September 1, 1984*

Polly is coming to town. Be sure to attend services regularly so as not to miss her arrival! (Who is Polly?)

*September 1, 1984*

*Proposed a three month experiment in small group home fellowship in lieu of midweek meetings*

*September 25, 1984*

It's time to STRETCH your horizons and come for spiritual and physical EXERCISE. We'll BEND the rules and let you come dressed in anything that's comfortable. Even the cost has been TRIMMED for you!

### 15 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*September 8, 1994*

Allen reminded us that we have not sung the Birthday song since April. Where has the summer gone?

### 10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*September 12, 1999*

Randy asked for input concerning a possible Adult Sunday School topic for part of the fall quarter. It was decided to go ahead with the study - a 6-week discussion entitled "Envisioning a New Mennonite Church".

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## Bits 'n Pieces

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### Address Changes

**New E-mail Address for Jess Reitz:**

**jess.reitz@yahoo.com**

### New jobs

**Mike McCrory** just started as Senior Planner at the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission on Monday, August 17.

**Roy Aloisio** has just begun a new job with SEVCA (Southeastern Vermont Community Action), setting up and running a home repair program (energy related) for low-income families. *(Our church has given Thanksgiving offerings to SEVCA for the past two years to help needy families with heating bills.)*

## 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**

OR slip a note in my church mailbox

OR contact a Newsletter Staff Member:

Carie Good, Janet North, and Virginia Schlabach