

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



“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. Yet, it was good of you to share in my troubles.” (Paul to the Philippians, 4:11-14).

There really is something irreplaceable about being with each other in the midst of the ups and downs of life. We so often feel some resistance to just letting others in on what is really going on, perhaps for fear of creating discomfort in others or ourselves.

As we start off a new year together, Bob Collins has given us the gift of telling the story of their Christmas. Thank you, Bob, (and Jan) for being willing to do that. May their example start us out on a wonderful year of ever-increasing closeness in our community of faith.

Blessed New Year, Randy

The Christmas that almost Wasn't...

On Saturday morning Dec. 12 my wife, Jan, fell on the ice in our driveway and broke her ankle in two places, sprained her knee, and displaced her knee cap. I managed to get her into our car as she did not want to call the ambulance and create a scene in the neighborhood. I took her to the emergency room at DHMC in Lebanon, NH, about 8 miles from home. She was then taken into the emergency room and evaluated, and x-rays were taken. During this process she was in much pain. She was given pain medication and one of the doctors put her knee cap back in place after he viewed the x-rays and found there were no bones broken in the knee area. They proceeded to set the bones in her ankle back to where they should be. They could do no more at that point because of the swelling, so they put a cast from her ankle to slightly above her knee.

We came home in the afternoon, and she was on pain medication until our return appointment on Dec. 17, when more x-rays were taken and she was scheduled for surgery on December 21. On the morning of Dec. 21 we arrived at the hospital at 8:30 am, with surgery scheduled at 11:00 am. The surgery was expected to take about two hours. Fortunately, they were able to complete it in one hour. She stayed in the hospital one night and returned home Tuesday, Dec. 22. She had three screws put in her ankle, and the procedure was not as bad as they expected. Jan had nothing but good things to say about her treatment at the hospital. She had excellent care by the doctors and staff at DHMC. Her first day home was

uncomfortable but she was feeling better by Christmas Eve. We enjoyed Christmas day here at home with our friends, Gabbi, Amelia and Bob. We had planned to go to Jan's brother's (Allen & Mary's) house Christmas afternoon, but that did not happen. I got Jan a new lazy-boy recliner and she is enjoying that with her leg propped up to keep her comfortable. She will need the cast for about 4 to 6 weeks with full recovery expected in 6 to 12 months. She is able to work at home as a board member at Upper Valley Music Center brought her a laptop computer to use as she recovers.

In addition to the events surrounding the accident we also were taking care of an old dog whose natural instinct was to chase our cat. This was very disruptive at times, but the cat wanted to be friends with the dog. One night I woke up very early in the morning and I was tiptoeing through the house so as not to disturb the dog, when I met the cat in the hall tiptoeing towards me and we were both startled. The dog didn't wake up so we were OK. This eventually was partially resolved as they became more used to each other and the chase became less frequent. There were other situations that occurred during this time, such as meeting former customers from my previous workplace in the hallways at the hospital, who usually asked me how retirement was going. I said, "Great". What else could I say. (I retired October 31.)

Also, on Dec. 18th our water heater quit and we called in a tech to get it running again. He told us his story about breaking his leg last February — a more serious break from which he was now just getting back to full recovery. On Dec. 19 the water heater quit again and water was running over part of our basement. Another tech came and fixed a couple of other things. The next day, Sunday, Dec. 20, the day before surgery, it quit again and started to flood the basement floor, but I caught it just in time. I told Jan we must be cursed. The first tech came back and finally fixed the problem. We told him to have a nice Christmas.

During this time the weather was getting bitterly cold. The temps outside our house dropped to -4 degrees. Thank God, our furnace was still working, and we did avoid the big Northeast snowstorm. It was so cold that when I came back into the house I accidentally broke the handle off our storm door because it was so brittle. I taped it up so no one would get cut on the metal. It took me a couple days to get to the hardware store to get a replacement handle. Problem resolved.

It was during my time at the hospital, as I observed other people with varying degrees of illness and injuries, that I realized we were not the only ones affected by a sudden disruption of life. There was a person in the emergency room with cuts all over his face; people being brought into the hospital in wheel chairs and on crutches; and a young person brought in by a Lebanon ambulance still wearing a helmet, being pushed past me on a stretcher, not knowing what had happened to him. Dart helicopter was landing at the helipad as we were leaving the hospital, and on another occasion, when I went for a cup of coffee at the hospital coffee shop, I overheard a conversation about someone with cancer.

How lucky we are that Jan's accident, as serious as it was, could be fixed and will heal. We recognize and appreciate the dedication of the staff at the hospital, continually trying to help people. We will also remember the people from church who came to our house the Sunday before Christmas to sing Christmas carols; the group in the hospital lobby singing Christmas carols to the employees, patients, and visitors. People caring about people.

We have received many cards, calls, e-mails, and offers of help, and visits from many people: friends, relatives, neighbors. Amelia, who is a nurse at DHMC, assisted Jan at home frequently. Church family have brought meals three days a week, and loaned us devices to make Jan's recovery at home more manageable. Co-workers and teachers (from Jan's work at the music center) have offered various degrees of assistance. We have rediscovered what we already knew: "The real meaning of Christmas" this year. It is the birth of Jesus, and also people helping people; caring and concerned in a time when the world seems in such disarray. There is good news.

Take care, and I hope the New Year 2010 will be more positive and healthy for us all.

- Bob Collins

Work of Christmas Begins

Howard Thurman (adapted)

**When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with the flocks,
then the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal those broken in spirit,
to feed the hungry,
to release the oppressed,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among all peoples,
to make a little music with the heart...**

**And to radiate the Light of Christ,
every day, in every way,
in all that we do and in all that we say.
Then the work of Christmas begins.**



Church life items

During Advent, Omar shared with us some interesting backgrounds of a few of our favorite Christmas Carols. We were delighted to discover an extra verse that is not in our hymn books. Here are the words of the omitted verse to "O little town of Bethlehem".

"Where children pure and happy pray
to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to Thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door;
The dark night wake, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more."

On the Sunday before Christmas, six members of the youth group (Ben, Seth, Victoria, Hannah, Hayden, and Hudson) read passages from "God is in the Small Stuff at Christmas" by Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz. Each reading was followed by a Christmas carol. The passages, which encouraged people to step back from the holiday craziness and appreciate some often neglected aspects of the season, fit very well into the flow of a wonderful service.

Thank you to our Church Family

You have shown God's love and compassion to me and my husband, during my fall on the ice, surgery, and recovery of a broken ankle. I want to thank you all for your love and prayers, food, cards, phone calls and visits. I have experienced the love of God in a new way. Although I don't enjoy the pain of having a broken ankle, I am experiencing peace, knowing God is with me. Thanks be to God! -*Jan Collins*

We said good-bye to Ted and Elinor Shattuck on Sunday, Dec. 13, as they leave for their season of voluntary service in Tucson, AZ. Our prayers and blessings are with them. We will miss them, and look forward to seeing them again after the snow melts in the spring!

As Ted reflected on their upcoming journey, as well as on the situations that many among us are currently facing, he shared the words to a song entitled "One Step More". He says this about the hymn: "The hymnbook is from the Old Order River Brethren, a church of which I was a part for some years before Eli and I got married. There is no music in the book, they have a song leader, and the hymns are sung very slowly, almost like a chant - very similar to the Old Order Amish, except that the singing is in English."

One Step More

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.

Author Unknown

From Spiritual Hymns

(Old Order River Brethren songbook c.1980)

Winter address for Ted & Elinor:

Mennonite Voluntary Service
6046 East 30th St.
Tucson, AZ 85711



Men's breakfast tradition stems from early-morning gatherings for coffee and prayer



November 7, 2009 - Breakfast group at Eaton's Sugarhouse, from left: Dave Lutz, Denny Hackman, Roy Aloiso, Bob Rosenberger, Brian Alderfer, John Lutz, Omar Zook, Abner Schlabach.

What makes a man get up at 6:00 a.m. (or even earlier) on the first Saturday of each month and drive 30-45 minutes to a restaurant for a 7:00 breakfast? Ask the regulars at the Taftsville Chapel Men's Breakfast and they'll give you plenty of good reasons.

Bob Rosenberger, who travels from Bridgewater says, "I enjoy getting together to visit and get to know everyone a little better outside of church. Plus the food is always good!" Brian Alderfer, who attends the months he isn't in Florida, says, "I really enjoy the fellowship of good friends I have known for a long time - a chance to catch up on news of their families and themselves, travels, etc." And Abner Schlabach, who drives the back roads from East Barnard, says: "I think that there's value for us to meet in any settings outside of our meeting on Sunday morning because this kind of fellowship helps us to get to know each other better. And understanding what's going on in others' lives is bonding."

How did this monthly breakfast tradition begin? The seeds were sown back in the 1960s when the men from Taftsville Chapel met early on Sunday mornings for coffee and prayer at Baker and Heijn, the auto body shop where Denny Hackman worked, and later at Interstate Auto Body. Denny thinks the gatherings began when pastor Jim Millen was ill and the men wanted to pray together for him. Richard Glick and Denny say that for awhile the meetings also included Bible study..

Eventually the meeting place shifted to John Lutz's business in Hartford. John writes: "Early men's gatherings are something of a Taftsville tradition. When I operated a printshop in Hartford Village (1969-79) a group of men gathered there at 6:00 a.m. each Sunday morning to talk and have coffee together. These were varied and lively sessions with a wide range of topics. To some it was novel and somewhat unsettling to have no subject 'off-limits.' More than once a participant would say, 'I did not know anyone else had those same feelings

or opinions.' Sometimes visitors would accompany local participants and were surprised at the lively and good-humored discussions. They were surprised that we had decided not to follow some 'study guide' on theological subjects. 'You just get together and talk about things in your life? Wow!' was their reaction."

Although the monthly Saturday breakfasts seem to be an indirect successor to these Sunday gatherings, the answer to exactly how and when they developed is a bit fuzzy. Dave Beidler reflects: "If I recall correctly, I think we started meeting when Ron and Marty (Kolb-Wyckoff) were here in the late 1980s. We originally met at the West Lebanon Burger King. I think that the breakfast meeting was designed to give some of the newer attendees a way to get better acquainted with others. I think we started going at seven (a.m.) because of the good old Mennonite work ethic and everyone having things to do and or a job to get to." Allen Guntz's diary confirms that the breakfast in March 1990 was indeed held at Burger King.

Allen Guntz responds: "I do not remember exactly when we started but I would say in the early 1990s. I think for some of the early breakfasts we met at the Holiday Inn (no longer there) in White River Junction during the months Dana's was not open. During the summer season we have always gone to Dana's and I think the 7:00 a.m. meeting time was because we were all busy and had lots to do on a Saturday so we wanted to get the most out of the day. I think it was always a good time of fellowship and keeping up-to-date on the happenings of our lives."

The pattern of meeting at Dana's by the Gorge in the summer months and elsewhere during the months Dana's is closed goes back, says John Lutz, to when Dave and Nancy Iott (Taftsville members) owned Dana's. In the past few years, Eaton's Sugarhouse near Royalton has been the favorite winter spot although the group has also trekked to Mickey's in Enfield, New Hampshire, several times to make it easier for Ted Shattuck to attend.

Dave Lutz and Dave Beidler are two second generation attenders of the breakfasts. Dave Lutz writes: "I enjoy men's breakfasts for a number of reasons. One of my earliest memories goes back to when as a child I'd look out the window of our Quechee home awaiting the return of my father from the early Sunday morning men's meeting that was held in my dad's printing shop in Hartford Village. Mom was usually preparing breakfast as we waited for his return home. I was always fascinated by the early departure which I seldom witnessed but I often was sitting at the window as he returned in time for breakfast. I often wondered what the men of Taftsville could be doing at these meetings in the wee hours of Sunday morning. It was with that interest and speculation that as an adult I enjoy gathering with

the men on Saturdays for breakfast. I realize that much of what gets discussed isn't much more than congenial conversation, but I enjoy gathering with many of the men who I grew up with in the Taftsville congregation and having the time to catch up with each other."

Dave Beidler says: "I enjoy getting together with the group for breakfast. I am probably the youngster as most of the regulars are older than me. I enjoy listening to the stories from the past. We sometimes talk current events. Trips that people have taken seem to be a favorite subject. I find that our breakfast get-togethers are a good way to learn more about the others in the group and perhaps catch up on what is happening in everyone's life."

Why does the breakfast tradition survive? John Lutz sums up what is certainly the consensus of the other regulars. "Why has it survived? Because Taftsville men really like and respect one another. We came from many different areas but shared this time of life together and grew to love and respect each other. We get together, catch up with each other quickly and share our thoughts and opinions - and laughter is always heard. A willingness to share extends even to the meal check. The total plus gratuity is struck and the cost is equally divided among those there. Why do I continue to attend?"

As long as I am able (or a gathering is held) I plan to attend. Even if the distance is a bit longer, it is important to me to know what my brothers are thinking and experiencing. We shared an important time in our lives together and I want to maintain a strand of those ties."

- Compiled by Virginia Glass Schlabach



December 5, 2009 - Farewell breakfast for Ted Shattuck at Mickey's, Enfield, NH. From left, Denny Hackman, John Lutz, Ted Shattuck, Roy Aloiso, Abner Schlabach, Allen Guntz, Omar Zook (present but not in picture: Bob Rosenberger, Dave Lutz)

Cite Soliel, Haiti *An edited version of an email forwarded from Leah Beidler*

I want to write to all of you and say a warm thank you for the additional support, prayers, and Bibles on our past trip to Cite Soleil, Haiti. We are very excited about where the Bibles landed in Haiti.

Cite Soleil is a slum on the outside of Port-au-Prince. The population is 500,000 for a 2.5 mile radius. One day I climbed to the top of the water tower to look over the land and I was left speechless as I looked at shacks beyond shacks. It looked like a puzzle as they were all intricately pieced together. My heart broke in so many ways. Broke for the people, broke for Christ, broke for the land, broke for the children left without hope.

It was on the top of that water tower that I got to share one of the sweetest conversations with a young Haitian teenager, John. As we sat there and looked at his "home", we talked about family. He told me how he had lost his mom, father, and baby sister, and was now living with a friend. He is 17. As I looked into his eyes I thought back to my childhood; family, joy of play, driving a car, a home, attending school, ALL these BLESSINGS. I could not help but feel a great wave of guilt. Following the conversation he asked me if I had a mother and father. My reply of yes came so simply. He eyes looked at me with a sense of, "Wow, how did you get so blessed to have your entire family, a mom AND a dad." This simple conversation continued to reveal to me the hardship of life for people, children, babies that live in Haiti.

John, became the sweetest helper for us. He not only made sure that we were OK daily, but he also helped us paint, work, and buy water for people. Each day he reflected Christ. Before we left Cite Soleil we told John, in Creole, that he now has two sisters: Caitlin and I. His mouth turned into a radiant smile.

John was only one of the few hearts that we got to meet. Visiting Cite Soleil was the hardest trip I have ever been on, but revealed to me more and more the calling and need for us to be the feet and hands for Him, and to bring His name and JOY to the NATIONS.

You all helped in that as you poured your hearts, prayers, and money into bringing HIS name to Cite Soleil. We were planning on leaving the Bibles in Passe Catabois with a couple of churches, but we felt called to leave the Bibles with a church in Cite Soleil. The church is made up of only 40 people, but it is a glorious body of believers. Cite Soleil holds little color, tin roof shacks, bullet holes are embedded into walls, and one can smell the ripe smell of sewer daily. But on the day that we gave those Bibles to the young pastor and the church, and prayed with him, all that brokenness seemed to disappear and God's radiant LOVE covered the hearts of Haiti. It was beautiful. I just want to say THANK YOU for continuing to POUR on us and the hearts of Haiti.

If you are interested in looking at pictures visit our blog at <http://camphopehaiti.blogspot.com/>



SCHOOL

The Woodstock School system is divided into districts, Taftsville being District # 7. The first schoolhouse, according to Dana's History, was built on the westerly side of the road leading up the valley, a short distance above the river road. We believe the site of this school was on a knoll in back of the house now occupied by the A. C. White family.

This building was a one-room frame structure, with desks on either side of the room and an alley between. The exact date of construction is not known but we feel that it was about 1800. This school was razed by fire in 1811, with only two weeks of the school year remaining. A brick school building was built on the same site and remained for thirty years, until it was torn down.

Daniel Taft, Jr. then built the third schoolhouse, at its present location. This was a two-room brick structure and boasted a belfry with a good size bell. At a later date a vestibule was added. The property on which the schoolhouse stood was, at that time, within the Hartland Town limits. This situation changed in 1851, when an adjustment of boundaries set off a section of land, including the school property, to Woodstock.

In February of 1853, Daniel Taft, Jr. deeded the property and school to the Town of Woodstock. At its annual Town Meeting in 1911, the Town of Woodstock voted to build a new schoolhouse in the village of Taftsville with a hall sufficient for school assemblies, religious purposes, or any other purpose for the benefit or advancement of the people of said village.

In accordance with this resolution the old brick schoolhouse was set off its foundation and moved to one side while the present two-room building was constructed. This is a wooden frame building with clapboard finish. An additional entrance into one basement room was added in the fall of 1953 to comply with fire regulations, as the building was being used frequently by the Grange for suppers and meetings and an outside entrance was required. The Grange dug the excavation and the School Board had the cementing and building done.

This school held a Superior Rating for most of its years. Rural education came to an end in Taftsville in 1953 and the children were then transported by bus to the Woodstock Village School. The school building was used from 1953 to 1957 as two supplementary classrooms to relieve crowded conditions at the Woodstock school.

The school property and building were sold in 1961 by the Town of Woodstock to a religious group known as the Mennonites.

This information comes from the book Taftsville Tales (it is in our library).

Schedule for January

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

January

- 2 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast @ Eaton’s Sugarhouse
- 9 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast @ Denny’s, W. Lebanon
- 10 Ekklesia
- 13 7:00 pm - Church Council
- 15 Pastoral Care Team Meeting
- 17 Leadership Team Meeting
- 24 *Covenant Sunday / Communion, Fellowship Potluck meal @ noon

Birthdays in January

Anniversaries in January

3 Ruth Ann Glick	15 Hannah Cox	22 Nancy & Russell Pejouhy
10 Carmeleta Beidler	21 Omar Zook	
12 Kristen Aloisio	23 Carl Andreas	

Childcare

Song Leaders

Coffee

Cleaning

January

January

January

January

3 Dave/Caren Swanson	3 Omar Zook	3 Janet North	3 Tim & Allison Good
10 Jane Glick	10 Allison Good	10 Mary Guntz	9 Tim & Allison Good
17 Janet North	17 Janice Zook	17 Nancy Pejouhy	16 Randy & Carie Good
24 Nancy Pejouhy	24 Virginia Schlabach	24 Karen Cox	23 Randy & Carie Good
31 Karen Cox	31 Janet North	31 R & RA Glick	30 ?

*Covenant Sunday

Sunday, January 24 will be our annual Covenant Sunday. We will join together in affirming our unity of faith, and our community covenant. Please take time to read and reflect on these statements prior to our gathering. Following the service, we will share a fellowship potluck meal together.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

- We believe God is the Creator and Master of all things.
- We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God and displayed all the fullness of God in human form.
- We believe that Christ’s coming announced the Kingdom of God; His death on the cross paid the penalty for our sin; and His resurrection makes sure both our present freedom and our future hope.
- We believe each individual must personally accept the salvation offered by Christ, and show that decision by repentance and baptism.
- We believe God’s Holy Spirit gives life, direction and wholeness to everyone who receives salvation.
- We believe the life of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God (the Bible) reveal the truth of God, and are our guides for daily living.
- We believe that the Church is the Family of God with Christ as the head, where all members are called to share their love, time, possessions and spiritual gifts.
- We believe Christ will come again to fulfill the Kingdom and bring his people into eternal joy in the world to come.

AS MEMBERS OF TAFTSVILLE CHAPEL MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP, WE COVENANT TO:

- Live a life of simple obedience to the will of God.
- Open ourselves to the guidance, direction, instruction and encouragement of the Holy Spirit to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ.
- Be willing to be used for the strengthening of the Body of Christ, including the willingness to boldly tell others of salvation in Christ.
- Labor together in understanding and meeting human needs in our local community and in our world.
- Refrain from the use of violence, and be peacemakers in our time.
- Regularly meet together for worship, study, prayer and encouragement.
- Give systematically and generously of our financial resources, our time and our spiritual gifts.
- Annually renew our commitment to Jesus Christ and affirm our covenant with one another.

Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

Do you remember when...

40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

January 18, 1970

The council discussed the idea of having a series of revival meetings this summer or early fall. We would like to hear from the congregation about this.

January 13, 1970

Candlelighters will meet at Marie Hackman's home. Bring embroidery thread and needles to decorate blankets for the layette bundles.

35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

January 7, 1975

This note was received by the congregation: "Dearest people - thank you so much for the box of store bought goodies. I'll make marmalade of the orange peels after we eat the oranges. I also enjoyed finding one jar of homemade pickles. We haven't had ham in a long time. It's nice to have something besides goats, rabbits and venison. Thank you sincerely, J.M.H, Post Mills, Vt."

30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

January 6, 1980

The congregation proposed a teaching position to John Lutz. He agreed to resume this position. You are encouraged to give John and Ruth much prayer and verbal support.

25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

January 1, 1985

As part of looking ahead in areas for change or growth, it is suggested to consider the possibility of relocating to a more spiritually needy area than Taftsville.

20 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

January 20, 1990

Richard Moon is working with the youth group in re-tipping the church chairs.

15 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

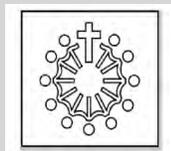
January 1, 1995

Sunday, New Year's Day, there will be commissioning service for Brent and Regina who are leaving for Chad, followed by a potluck dinner.



**Special music on Music Sunday,
November 29 "Alleluia!"
By Allison and Tim Good and Nick Wolfe**

Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship



*Located in the village of Taftsville,
one block south of Rte. 4 on
Happy Valley Rd.*

Randy Good, Pastor

<http://www.taftsvillechapel.org/>

Send your contributions for

"The Taftsville Chapel Current" to:

rdjcollins@mac.com

OR slip a note in my church mailbox

OR contact a Newsletter Staff Member:

Carie Good, Janet North, and Virginia Schlabach