

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.

Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship, Taftsville, Vermont

July/August 2010

Leadership Team News by Randy Good

The long anticipated trip to Alaska's Southeast is now behind us, and Carie and I are glad to be back and reentering our lives and the fellowship here. Reconnecting does have a life of its own with an unpredictable pace. I suspect you'll hear much more about the impact of the trip as time goes on, but just now as I write this there is one aspect that stands out especially: God is huge, and moves at His own pace. Of course, you knew that. But it got inside me in a new way, being surrounded by such intense grandeur and often being quite near magnificent and very wild creatures who are so at home there. It has helped me let go just a bit more, and to not only trust but actually enjoy the direction and pace of God as He moves and works His wonders inside and outside us.

At least in Alaska He appears to never be in a hurry no matter how much something else matters to me at the time. I saw it illustrated as Spring emerged green in sedges and aspen where only a few decades ago the same ground was under a hundred feet of solid grey-blue ice. There it was again as a mother humpback taught her young how to bubble-net feed just fifty yards off our relatively tiny boat. We had started our trip in Juneau, they had started theirs in Hawaii, and yet there we

were sharing a quiet cove together. Even being able to see it with my own eyes, the sheer scale of "normal" in Alaska is incomprehensible. The pace of life rolls on there in very broad strokes, and it can, if I let it, bring a new level of peacability to following Christ in life with all its changes and challenges. On to the news:

As you all may recall, before they left for Tucson last year, Ted and Elinor resigned from officially serving with the Leadership Team. Their house was on the market, they were worn out, they were leaving for service work in Tucson and their geographical future looked uncertain should

"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

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the house sell. So, the time seemed right to make such a change.

Since then, in God's pace, two things have become evident: Their house may continue to be on the market for some time, and (more importantly) their heart for serving among us with the Leadership Team has not gone away but has remained and strengthened. Omar, Janice, Carie and I, as well as others in the congregation, have noticed their hearts and several of us have asked Ted and Elinor directly: "Would you consider coming back on to the Leadership Team? Would that be a peaceable expression of your gifts and calling?" In talking things through with them, what came into focus was that what was sorely needed was actually a good long break with the potential of not returning, rather than a permanent resignation. There are some things you just can't turn off, no matter what, until God's season for it is fully over.

So, the Leadership Team would like to invite the congregation to consider re-affirming Ted and Elinor back in to their previous role among us, with the full understanding that when their house eventually sells, they may well be moving out of the area then. They may continue to go off and do temporary service projects as the calling for that emerges. We'll face it together as things unfold at their own pace.

Underlying all this is the reminder that we really do live and work and serve in "seasons." Most of us thrive in an atmosphere of stability, but when stability becomes rigidity it can cripple our responsiveness to the Spirit's creative prompting to move us in and out (and back again) in obedience to where He is leading. I'm grateful for Ted and Elinor's responsiveness and obedience.

I was able to glean a richer perspective on this "seasons" thing while being away in Alaska. One of the things I learned about glaciers is that they also have seasons. Many are indeed receding, but others are actually advancing. For now. Some are stabilized, meaning that they are in a season of having their net gain in winter matched by their net loss in summer. For now. One thing is clear: The timing of such advances and retreats is unique for each glacier, and study as we might, we cannot predict what will happen next, or when. Some seasons are so very much longer than others. All we can do is observe with wonder as each living ice field goes through its own changes at its own pace.

The idea of moving at a "glacial" pace has sometimes been another way of saying "frustratingly slow." Given that we are currently walking with the Lord of eternity, maybe that pace is not such a bad thing after all. Perhaps we can extend to ourselves and to each other the grace to rest in the pace of God in everything. Stare at a glacier. It may look like nothing is happening, but I promise you – there is a lot going on and it is unstoppable. Sometimes, if we are very lucky and in the right place at the right time, we can witness a cataclysmic threshold of glacial change. When a chunk of ancient ice the size of a freight train calves off into the sea, it is instructive and humbling to remember that the moment was many thousands of years in the making.

Here's my prayer right now: *"Eternal God, we submit ourselves to your pace, trusting in the beauty of your glory. We give you ourselves, our friends and family, and our community of faith at Taftsville to expand and contract and stabilize as you will in your seasons. Help us to wait and watch well, and help us to move along with you as you take us through this life together. You are unstoppable."*

Grace and peace to you all. It's good to be home.

Randy

For more pictures of Randy and Carie's adventures, see www.lubberlines.blogspot.com



Editor's note

Happy summer! As Jan mentioned in the June issue of the Current, she asked me to take over the responsibility of putting together the Current each month. Fortunately, she had assembled a wonderful staff of Carie Good, Janet North and Virginia Schlabach who take turns each month assembling the information that goes in the Current, which makes the title "Editor" much less daunting. In theory, all I have to do is give a final screening to the content, and arrange it in the template that Jan provided for me. Of course, this is the month that my computer decided to really go down the tubes, and at the eleventh hour I am putting this together on a computer at work. Hence, the funny-looking format! Once I get back onto a trusty Mac (I am so PC illiterate!) I will be able to use our beautiful insignia and a more familiar format. In the mean time, I hope you enjoy the

thoughtful and informative content here, and know that I would love to hear any feedback or suggestions for future issues of the Current. I have been so blessed by my time as a member of this fellowship at Taftsville, and I am thrilled to be able to participate in our common life together through this newsletter. As we all are so geographically spread out, this small publication can serve as yet another thread to bind us together in Christ's Spirit. Blessings, and I hope you are able to enjoy the wonder of God's glorious Creation this season!

--Caren Swanson, *Editor*

From the treasurer:

Thanks to everyone for giving so generously (and making my job so easy!) this past year. We finished up our fiscal year in great shape, and the first month of this fiscal year is right on target. We took no offering on July 11, as we met with Bethany Birches Camp for a special service, but our other offerings made up the gap.

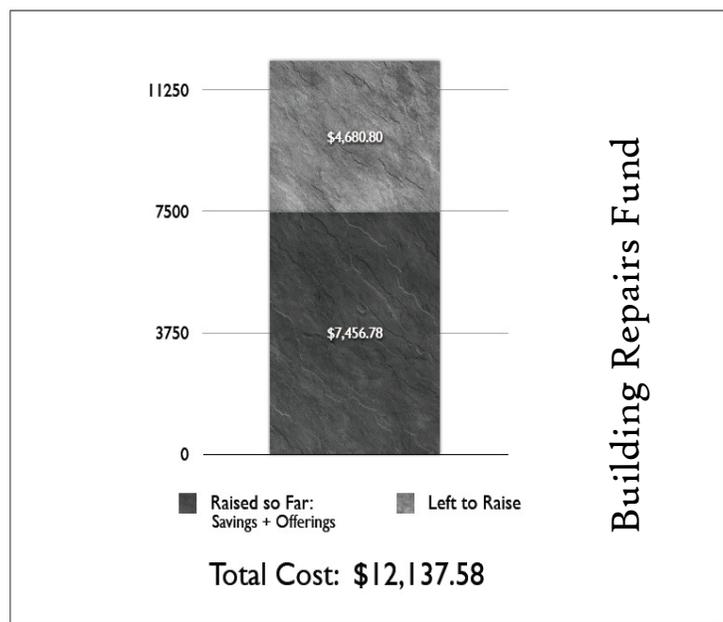
For the Building Repairs Fund, we're about two-thirds of the way there. The total we need is about \$12,000, which combines the cost of the new metal roof and repairing the chimney. We currently have \$4,400 in savings earmarked for Capital Repairs, and our offerings designated to the repair fund total \$3,000, so we have about \$4,700 left to raise.

Many thanks and blessings to you all for your continued generosity!

July (\$1833 Weekly Budget)

Offerings:

- 7/4 - \$3014.10
- 7/11 - No offering taken/BBC Joint Service
- 7/18 - \$2505.00
- 7/25 - \$1816.00



TAFTSVILLE CHAPEL ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2010

Administrator Dave Beidler opened the annual meeting with prayer. Dave gave a summary report of last year's Annual Meeting of June 19, 2009. At that meeting, the church decided to meet quarterly because of budgetary problems. Things have improved financially since then, so quarterly meetings are no longer necessary.

Dave Beidler reviewed the Slate of Officers for the coming year. The church affirmed the Slate of Officers for the coming year as follows:

Administrator	Dave Beidler
Treasurer.....	Tim Good
Christian Ed. Director.....	Virginia Schlabach
Head Usher.....	Fred Schlabach
Outreach/MDS Rep.....	Elinor Shattuck
Franconia Conference Rep.....	Carie Good
Music Coordinator.....	Omar Zook
Librarian(s).....	Melissa Ayres/Lynda Knisley
Calendar Keeper.....	Allen Guntz
Member at Large.....	Ann Chalker
Mennonite Mutual Aid Rep.....	Allen Guntz
Bethany Birches Camp Rep.....	Kevin Cox
Head Trustee.....	Omar Zook
Trustee two-year term.....	Ken Glick
Trustee three-year term.....	Dale Snader
Hospitality Committee.....	Mary Fullerton Heather Wolfe Mary Guntz
Child Care Coordinator.....	Jane Glick

Tim Good presented the coming year's budget and explained that last year at this time our hearts were broken because we had serious shortfalls. We prayed about the budget, and now we praise God that He has supplied the needs of His people! The proposed budget was reviewed. Cane Good moved to increase giving and income to fund the Service Fund in this year's budget. Ken Glick seconded, and the motion was approved. The proposed coming year's budget was approved.

Dave Beidler spoke about the roofing project. With the amount of income we have received this year, we have enough to cover the repairs, but will need to pay ourselves back through the ongoing Roofing Fund.

Dave Swanson thanked the congregation for the opportunity and privilege to serve in Randy's absence.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting, Dave Beidler dismissed us for food and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Fullerton

TAFTSVILLE TIDBIT TRIVIA...*July*

Do you remember when...

40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

July 13, 1970

After discussion on the order of our Sunday Service, it was decided to return to the previous order of having the sermon before Sunday School.

35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

July 8, 1975

Lorne Glick, Brent Beidler, and Jeff Hackman were appointed to be ushers.

July 20, 1975

A meeting will be held for open discussions about the possibility of starting a Christian School. Please plan to attend.

30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

July 8, 1980

A report of the Summer Bible School was given. A good staff provided a meaningful school for a smaller than usual enrollment. Only 1 youth pupil attended.

25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

July 21, 1985

Public meeting for the area to learn more about Habitat for Humanity will be held at Dana's by the Gorge at 7:00 pm.

July 28, 1985

Taftsville Chapel's 25th Anniversary Celebration will include a slide show, a time line, and possibly Arden Godshall.

20 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

July 1, 1990

The Taftsville neighborhood "block" party will be an ice cream social beginning at 6 pm. Marty will be sending cards to all Taftsville residents inviting them to join us for this event.

15 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

July 9, 1995

Our community outdoor service and picnic will begin at 10:30 on our lawn. Dave Lutz and Marty will work together on invitations to be handed out to homes in Taftsville.

July 12, 1995

There was discussion about the weedy front bank. The issue was not resolved.

TAFTSVILLE TIDBIT TRIVIA...*August*

Do you remember when...

45 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

August 14, 1965

Six MYF'ers arrive from Penn. to help clean and paint the church. Two stay at M.Beidlers, two at V.Glicks, and two at R.Glicks.

40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

August 29, 1970

A series of Prophecy Meetings begin, with Roy Glick leading. Saturday evening, Sunday morning and Sunday evening services are planned.

35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

August 10, 1975

A motion was made to discontinue the monthly special offerings, and instead commit to a goal of \$200 per month to be paid into a special account, in preparation for starting a school.

30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

August 1, 1980

A special thanks to Jane Griffis [now Glick] for the lovely candlesticks she brought back from England!

25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

August 27, 1985

The congregation votes to offer \$8,000 for the lot available adjacent to the church property. The asking price is \$12,000.

August 18, 1985

Concern was voiced that we as a congregation are more ready to spend money on ourselves and our own building than we are to invest in other human needs in the community.

20 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

August 15, 1990

Treasurer Allen Guntz commented that although the income was somewhat less for this year, proportionately the giving per active member actually increased.

Baby News!

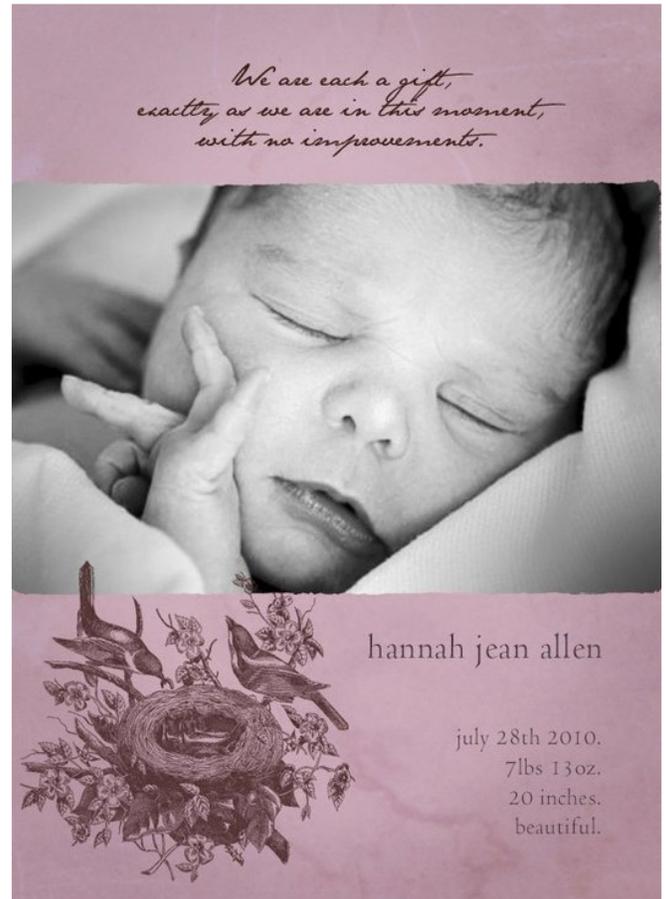
2 special babies have entered the world and made two dear couples from our congregation first-time grandparents! Congratulations to the Goods and the Pajouhys and to the new moms and dads as they welcome these new precious little people!



Greetings to Everyone at Taftsville,

Sunday morning (July 18th) we were awaiting the birth of our first grandchild, finally after many hours of labor, Elias Pejouhy Williams was born at 2:50 PM, weighing in at 7 lbs. 14 oz. 21 inches long. We are so blessed to become grandparents. Words can't express our joy.

Russell and Nancy



OK, Grandparent alert!!
Photo of Hannah Jean Allen attached.
We visited yesterday, and everyone is doing great- what a blessing.
R & C

In Other News:

The Upper Valley Haven

The Upper Valley Haven is grateful for our ongoing contributions to the Food Shelf. Over 2,000 different families in Vermont and New Hampshire are better able to provide nourishment for their family because of their Food Shelf Program. Please continue to remember our neighbors as you shop for your groceries, and bring your donated items to the designated box in the Millen Room. Ruth Ann receives a weekly email from the Haven that lists the foods that are most needed for the Food Shelf that week. If you would like her to forward that list to you please let her know. It helps make it easier to know what to buy to donate.

A Note from Our Friends

We recently received a note from Ross and Jessica Reitz. They say: " Please tell everyone 'hello' and that we are doing well. Jessica has been diagnosed with Hashimoto's thyroiditis, and since her diagnosis, she has been doing much better. She now has more days that she does not use the cane than days that she does. Praise God. We love all of you. In Christ, Ross & Jessica "

Getting To Know You: Omar and Janice Zook

***Note:* Each month we have been asking couples or individuals from our congregation the following questions in the hopes that as we know one another more deeply, we can love one another with greater fidelity.

Where did you grow up? Share a bit about your family, local environment, school, church – whatever might have shaped who you've become as an adult. How did you become a Christian? Briefly describe higher education, jobs, settings, experiences before you met and married. What are your hobbies and interests? Name a favorite song, scripture, and/or book that has special meaning to you.

Janice:

I grew up on a farm in southeastern Pennsylvania in the town of Harleysville. My grandfather died when my father was 12 years old and at that time he went to live with his aunt and uncle and spent the remainder of his teenage years on what would eventually become "our" farm. We had a two-family farmhouse and his aunt and uncle lived on the other side of this farmhouse during my entire time living at home. So essentially, I grew up with one set of grandparents living right next door. That was mostly a good experience. We were always welcome on their side of the house and they had plenty of time to spend with us. I have 2 younger brothers.

Our family went from attending a large Mennonite church to attending a small "mission" church. In many ways it was similar to our church here, but larger. I was privileged to attend Franconia Mennonite School for grades one through eight and then attended Christopher Dock Mennonite High School. We had Bible class each year and were required to memorize Bible verses. This was an important part of my Christian education. It was a safe place to question the beliefs of the Mennonite church and to begin to flesh out my own faith and to grow in my Christian life. The summer I graduated from high school I joined a VS team that came to VT, NH and NY to teach Summer Bible School. It was that summer that I met Omar at Taftsville. Back home in PA, I took a job as a nursing assistant at a local Mennonite nursing home. That was a fun year in my life. I had some of the best coworkers I've ever had! Who knew working in a nursing home could be so much fun! So having decided that I would indeed enjoy a career in nursing I began my training in Reading, PA. After graduating, Omar and I were married and we made New England our home. We have three daughters and two granddaughters.

It is hard to choose a favorite Bible verse, but one of them is Phil. 4: 4-9.

Omar:

I grew up on a small farm in central PA near Allensville and in my early years we had no electricity. I have two sisters and four brothers and I was next to the youngest. My youngest brother had Downs Syndrome and he is the only sibling who is no longer living. He lived to be 63. I always felt that the farm was a great place to grow up but did not always like the hard work and many chores, especially taking care of the chickens! We had about 600 to 700 layers and eggs were gathered by hand, washed, graded and boxed for sale. Of course the favorite parts of farming were anything that involved driving tractors and there was a great deal of that even at a young age. I drove the family car around home starting at age nine so the longest years of my life were from 12 to 16 just waiting for the privilege to get a driver's license in order to be able to drive on the roads.

I went to Belleville Mennonite School for my complete education and my family attended Allensville Mennonite Church, which was a part of the Allegheny conference. The church attendance was between 350 and 400, which had its advantages. There were always lots of young folks my age and lots of planned and unplanned activities. My church experience was a very positive one and at the age of twelve I responded to an alter call at the Andrew Jantze tent meetings being held in "Big Valley" (the name of our home community). As soon as the tent meetings were over the church ministers arranged for a baptismal instruction class for those who had accepted Christ at the tent meetings or others who made a public commitment elsewhere. Upon completion of this class and a confirmation that we indeed did have a new birth experience, we were encouraged to become a member of the congregation following baptism. Four-part harmony singing was the norm for church music and the school music classes helped to reinforce that tradition. It was a scary thing to lead singing for the first time or two in front of the whole congregation but singing was always an enjoyable part of worship.

At age 18 all young men registered for the draft and we were encouraged to register as a CO to do alternate service in place of military service. A good friend of mine invited me go along with him to a place in New England called Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital where there was a 1-W unit. There are too many highlights of this two-year experience to record here, but one highlight was a special notice of certain Bible school teachers who came from Franconia area in PA to help with the summer Bible school. The rest is history as one of those teachers was Janice. So we met for the first time in the very room where we worship.

I spent 45 years working in an operating room. I trained to be an O.R. tech during my 1-W (alternative service) years and began nursing school in 1988. Classes were held weekends and nights while our children were in high school and college. Not the preferred way, but sometimes you do what you have to do.

It is hard to pick a favorite song but "Lift Your Glad Voices" ranks near the top of my list.

One of my favorite scriptures is Psalms 19. What an amazing tribute to our God!

**Taftsville Chapel
Mennonite Fellowship**

Taftsville, VT

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Joy Awakening by Jessica Reitz

Phil. 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Psalm 19

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom
from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right,

rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.