



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.

Caren Swanson, *Editor*; Carie Good, Janet North & Virginia Schlabach, *Newsletter Staff*

February 2011

“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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On Being a Doormat for Jesus...

by Randy Good

Our current topic of “Christians and War” during 1st and 2nd hours at Taftsville has fostered some serious discussion. The real-world implications of personal Biblical non-resistance to evil can really clash with our desire for fairness. Especially after a scenario is suggested that involves bullying or potential harm to others close to us, the objection is often voiced: “Does that mean I’m just supposed to be a doormat?” It needs to be acknowledged that the passion behind that question, asked at that time, really is a heart-cry for justice, and for real mercy to be shown to the potential victims of violence. To understand non-resistance as a call to “do nothing” in the face of impending harm does not compute well, nor should it.

But, what if faithful discipleship actually did answer the Doormat question with a “yes.” In practicing non-resistance, what if we really are called to be a kind of Doormat. (Stick with me...)

Think for a minute about doormats. They are there for at least two reasons: To provide protection to the house from outside dirt, and to provide a welcome to the guests who cross our threshold. While some have “Welcome” printed on them, many doormats are just there for function, and hardly noticed. But if you removed them, it’s likely that guests would feel a bit awkward in entering your home. They need an appropriate place to drop the world’s grime before they can feel welcome.

The usual understanding of what is meant by being a doormat is that one is behaving as a non-person. People choose that way for any number of reasons. There can be a desire to please everyone, a need to be needed, a desire to avoid feelings of conflict, or even a martyr complex. In any case, being a doormat in the usual sense involves a commitment to what appears to be the path of *least* resistance. This is very different from the path of *non*-resistance.

Jesus gives us some clues as to the difference. He plainly said “No one takes my life from me (that would be ‘least resistance’), I choose to lay it down on my own accord (non-resistance)” (John 10:18). He also said “...love your enemies, and do good to them...” (Luke 6:35). Also Paul, after calling us to be *living* sacrifices in Romans 12, goes on to tell us much the same: Overcome evil with good.

One thing is clear from these and other passages that teach non-resistance. We need to show up in the moment in order to do the good we are called to do. We need to be there, perhaps like the best kind of doormat, to offer welcome and a place to shed dirt, knowing that the parts of us that matter cannot be harmed. All

kinds of courageous and creative responses to evil might be given to us by the Spirit in the moment if we choose, of our own accord, to have “Welcome, Friend” be the doormat we allow others to stand on.

Of course, we have no control at all over the outcome. For as many moving stories of “successful” non-resistance there are, there are certainly many where it did not go well at all for the faithful one. Jesus is the prime example. He does not call us to non-resistance and the blessing of those who would harm us because it “works”, but because it is right. It is His way, and the way that His glory is eventually made known.

So perhaps, the next time someone challenges you with the understandable question “Does following Jesus mean I’m supposed to be a doormat?” try saying “Yes, actually it does, depending on the kind of doormat you are.”

Shalom, *Randy*

Editor’s Note

I get so excited when I think about the conversation we are sharing at Taftsville right now. For one thing, it is so important to consider what our faith actually means in our lives. Talking about non-resistance is asking more than simply “Do Christians fight?” and really probing deeper to the question of how we interact with the teachings of Christ. Dave and I have been so encouraged to find a community of faith that seeks to LIVE the call of Christ, not just in some pious spiritualism, but in the day-to-day-ness of life. To all of you long-time members, this is not something to be taken for granted!

Another reason I have been excited about our discussion on conscientious objection is that it has felt very *civil*. We are at a crisis point in our nation in terms of a lack of civility, and the world desperately needs the Church to model civil discourse. Unfortunately, again, this is not always the case, and as we all know, differences of opinion about heated topics can drive churches apart all too easily. I am so grateful for the grace that each person has shown over the last few weeks as we have talked about this deeply personal yet also communal topic.

Finally, I am thrilled to be able to hear the stories of the people who founded this fellowship. We have a rich heritage of faithfulness that brought young men and women far from their families in pursuit of the work Christ was calling them to. I am honored to be a part of a congregation with this collective story, and I hope each of you will enjoy the particular stories on these pages of how a few of our members came to hold the beliefs and practices that have shaped not only their own lives, but the lives to all of us. -*Caren Swanson*



A picture of all the 1-W's at Taftsville in 1966. Can you recognize Richard & Ruth Ann Glick? Omar Zook? Allen Guntz? In addition to the IW's & wives are the Glick's who were the "IW sponsor's" and on the left side Jim & Kathryn Millen. Jim was our pastor at that time.

Taftsville's Story of Conscientious Objection

From Allen Guntz:

Growing up in a Christian family in a Mennonite congregation in PA and being taught non-resistance from little on up left little doubt in my mind how to deal with the issue of being drafted. Registering as a conscientious objector for religious reasons was not a difficult process as I recall. I don't remember all the details but I believe it required answering a list of questions and having a letter from my pastor indicating that I was a member in good standing in my congregation. In fact I think it was too easy and would have been good if we would have had to defend our beliefs and convictions in a more personal way.

I was influenced greatly by my Sunday School teacher, Vernon Ruth, who had served his I-W service in the late 50's at Mary Hitchcock. So when I was drafted I believe I had to find a job at an approved location by a certain date or the draft board would have assigned me to a location of their choice. I applied and interviewed at MHMH and at that time they were delighted to have young Mennonite fellows join the staff, mostly as orderlies but some other positions as well.

I moved to NH in October of 1964 along with a good friend of mine, Larry Cassel, and worked as an 11-7 night shift float orderly. I experienced very little negative reaction working and living in the Upper Valley as a CO. I marvel at how God opened doors that lead to many new and wonderful experiences and never regretted the choice to become a CO. Back then I never would have guessed that I would be working at MHMH for 40+ years. Taftsville became family away from home and a place where I felt loved and cared for, in a Christian Community.

From Abner Schlabach:

When I turned 18 I registered with my local Selective Service Board as a conscientious objector and was given the status of I-W. Our local Board in Ohio had lots of Amish and Mennonite young men on their lists and receiving I-W status was barely questioned in the same way it was in places where conscientious objection was rare. A few years later I was called to Columbus for an "Armed Forces Physical". I pre-empted a draft call-up by visiting what I knew to be an approved hospital in Garfield Heights, a suburb of Cleveland; one of my older brothers was already serving there as an x-ray technician. Marymount was a Catholic general hospital operated by the order of Sisters of the same name. I was offered and accepted a job as an orderly in the emergency room and served from 1955-57. When we I-W's were off duty we sometimes were given the opportunity to earn a bit of extra pay by assisting with autopsies, which I did on numerous occasions.

I-W was a positive experience for this somewhat naive boy from rural Ohio. This was an exposure to the wider world; we visited the YMCA where we played basketball and went swimming; we had a softball team in the Greater Cleveland I-W league; we had relatively easy access to the Cleveland Indians. And our hospital was where the Browns came when they needed orthopedic care. Some of us attended a Mennonite church in a neighboring suburb.

Near the end of my service my supervising nun informed me that with two years' relevant experience and a sponsor I could take the state board exam for practical nurses, which I did, and became an LPN. My most positive experience of Catholicism was meeting several Franciscan Brothers who served as chaplains. The Franciscans seemed to me to exhibit the best of Catholicism and one of them was influential in my deciding to attend college after my service.

From Richard Glick:

I grew up in the Mennonite Church and was baptized at the age of 9. From my earliest childhood I heard the teaching of Jesus from Matthew 5. This was taught by my parents and church leaders. I also observed many young people from our churches serving in PAX, I-W, and VS. So when I turned 18 and needed to register I went to the draft board at the county seat and registered as a conscientious objector to war and was given the classification of 1-W. Even though I was a CO I was still called upon to report for the physical given by the military board. I failed this physical, the reason given was that I was underweight. This gave me the option of avoiding service altogether or volunteering to serve 2 years in public service anyway. I chose the latter and learned through my brother-in-law that the Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, New Hampshire was approved for 1-W service. On our wedding trip I had an interview with the personnel director at the hospital and was given the opportunity to work as an orderly for 2 years in lieu of military service. Five months later in March of 1960 we became a part of the 1-W group serving at MHMH. I started as an orderly, and Ruth Ann worked as a nurse on the evening shift. Working in the hospital changed my life as I found I enjoyed hospital work and ended up making it a career.

The church at Taftsville had just begun and we became a part of this outreach from the Franconia Mennonite conference. We have many fond memories of those early days. The congregation was comprised of the pastor (Arden Godshall, a former 1-W) and his family, a few people from the community, and about 6 couples serving as 1-W's from the hospital in Hanover. Soon more 1-W's came and the church grew in numbers. We were involved in singing in nursing homes, jail services in Woodstock, summer Bible school, and Bible studies in our pastor's home.

As I reflect on whether I have changed in my attitude on military service as a Christian, I don't think I have changed. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world if it were then my servants would fight," John 18:36.

(NOTE: Richard added later that he wished the process had been a little more difficult. He felt that if he had been required to defend his position, it might have been more meaningful for him.)

Omar Zook's Story

When I turned 18 I received a registered letter from the draft board in Huntington Pa. requesting that I register for the draft. I requested a CO status and was given a form to fill out to explain my beliefs as to why I did not want to serve in the military. It was a two or three page form that asked what religion I was and how I came to this conviction. After filling out the form and explaining what I believed from a Biblical perspective and that I could not participate in the killing of another human being, I sent the form to our draft board and waited for a response. The first classification that I got in the mail was "1-O".

About two and a half years later I got a registered letter from the draft board telling me to report to Harrisburg, PA for a physical exam. This exam was conducted by military physicians. About 6 months after the notification that I had passed my physical, I was sent a 1-W classification with a letter from the draft board stating that I needed to provide them with an approved place of service within 3 months or they would appoint me to a place. My friend, Irvin Hartzler was looking at a list of service opportunities and saw, Mary Hitchcock Hospital in Hanover N. H. and said to me, "Why don't we go together and look into this place." The rest is history and it changed my life on a number of fronts. I served from April of 1964 until April of 1966.

From Carl Andreas:

For four hundred years, my ancestors held pacifist beliefs, migrating from Europe to the U.S. in the 1880s with other Mennonite families to avoid conscription. We had neither guns nor war toys in our home. At school my brother and I excused ourselves from scrap metal drives in support of the war effort; we bought no war bonds.

I registered as a conscientious objector and was inducted into CPS on May 18, 1945 at the age of 18. I was first assigned to the MCC operated CPS Camp No. 5 at Colorado Springs, Colorado, a Soil Conservation Service project housed in an old CCC camp. We worked in soil conservation and helped maintain the Rocky Mountain National Park road. The churches furnished food and a \$5 monthly allowance. We worked 44 hours a week and participated in camp education, worship and recreation programs. In the fall of 1945, I transferred to CPS Camp No. 141, Camp Bernard, in Gulfport, Mississippi, also operated by MCC. There we worked to eradicate hookworm disease under the direction of the Harrison County Health Department. We constructed, sold and installed privies at homes and schools that had no sanitary facilities. We made home visits to conduct sanitation surveys, tested for hookworm disease, distributed hookworm medication, and gave instruction on sanitary practices in the school. We also worked to control rat infestation. I was discharged on November 23, 1945, in time to begin my college education at Bethel College in Kansas.

Getting Familiar with the Terms

The **Selective Service System** is the program by which the U.S. government maintains information on those subject to military conscription ("the draft"). Most male U.S. citizens between the ages of 18 to 25 are required by law to register within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Registration for Selective Service is also required for various federal programs and benefits including student loans, job training, federal employment, and naturalization. The Selective Service System provides the names of all registrants to a Recruitment Database. The names are distributed to the Services for recruiting purposes on a quarterly basis.

A **Conscientious Objector (CO)** is an individual whose personal beliefs are incompatible with military service, or sometimes with any role in the armed forces.

Civilian Public Service (CPS) provided conscientious objectors in the United States an alternative to military service during World War II. From 1941 to 1947 nearly 12,000 draftees, unwilling to do any type of military service due to their religious beliefs, performed work of national importance in 152 CPS camps throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. The CPS men served without wages and minimal support from the federal government. The cost of maintaining the CPS camps and providing for the needs of the men was the responsibility of their congregations and families. Draftees from the historic peace churches and other faiths worked in areas such as soil conservation, forestry, fire fighting, agriculture, social services, and mental health. Civilian Public Service was disbanded in 1947.

CPS Memorial Website Nearing Completion

The Civilian Public Service Story: Living Peace in a Time of War is a new website nearing completion, scheduled to go live on May 15, 2011, the 70th anniversary of the opening of the first WWII Civilian Public Service (CPS) camp. It recognizes the nearly 12,000 drafted conscientious objectors who served their country by performing "work of national importance" in some 151 camps and units during the war. Website users will be able to search the website by the names of CPS men or by the camps and units in which they served.

CPS men served in soil conservation, fought forest fires (some as smoke jumpers), restored farm land, worked to control hookworm disease, served as guinea pigs in starvation recovery and other medical research, and played a central role in exposing the inhumane care of people in state mental hospitals, as examples.

The All Kansas CPS Reunion Group approved the creation of a CPS Memorial in the form of a website in 2008. Partnering with MCC, a team of archivists, current CPS researchers, and volunteers, the Kansas Committee is providing guidance, financial and other support to launch the site. Carl and Rosalind Andreas are part of this effort.

1-W Service was a replacement program for CPS, started in the early 1950's. It was created for conscientious objectors classified as 1-W by the Selective Service. The new program eliminated the base camps of CPS and provided wages for the men. Under this service plan, conscientious objectors were assigned to public agencies and approved nonprofit private agencies for the their required two years of service. Two-thirds of 1-W servicemen worked in hospitals.

Currently from Taftsville Chapel:

Those who served in the CPS:

Carl Andreas -- 1945

Those who served in 1-W:

Richard Glick - 1960-62

Dennis Hackman - 1961-63

Omar Zook - 1964-66

Allen Guntz - 1967-69

Bob Rosenberger - 1967-69

Dale Snader - 1967-69

Those who wrote on their draft registration cards "I am a conscientious objector to war":

Tim Good

Ken Glick

Fred Schlabach

Church Life

Church Cleaning :

February 13	Aloisio
February 20	Beidler
February 27	Beidler
March 6	Chalker
March 13	Chalker
March 20	Collins
March 27	Collins

Coffee:

February 13	Janet N.
February 20	Karen C.
February 27	Ken/Jane
March 6	R/R Glick
March 13	Abner S.
March 20	Janet N.
March 27	Nancy P.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Be on the lookout for a new addition to the church library! Rosalind and Carl Andreas are kindly donating a copy of Men of Peace: World War II Conscientious Objectors edited by Mary R. Hopkins, pub. 2010. This book is a collection of reflections from thirty men, interviewed between 2005 and 2007, all in their later years. These men all responded to the same questions in interviews, one of which probed how they made their

decision to register as a conscientious objector after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The question pushed further for major influences (inner and outer); major supporters and major detractors; as well as what finally ended any ambivalence. Other questions probe other decisions made in life -- jobs, marriage, pacifist activities etc. *Thank you Rosalind and Carl for this timely gift!*

Candlelighter's Brunch and Baby Shower

On January 15, fifteen women gathered at Ruth Ann's house for a sunny Saturday morning brunch and baby shower to benefit The Pregnancy Center of the Upper Valley (formerly CareNet). Ruth Ann lovingly decorated her home with antique baby toys and clothing, and after enjoying a yummy meal together we shared in opening gifts to be presented later to the

pregnancy center for use in their Growth Experiences Program. This program includes client participation in classes related to pregnancy, baby care and personal development as well as providing material resources. We delighted in opening pretty gift bags full of surprises, from decorated burp cloths and diapers to handmade baby quilts. It was a fun morning for everyone, and who doesn't love new baby clothes?! The Pregnancy Center expressed warm gratitude for our donations.



Seated at front: Suzanne, Darlene
Front Row, L to R: Janice, Jan, Dottie, Mary G., Nancy
Back Row, L to R: Jane, Mary F., Ruth Ann, Victoria, Carmeleta, Judy, Carie
(not in photo: Virginia)



Jan opens a gift while Mary looks on.

A Peek into the Life of Ted and Elinor in Tucson...

(a paragraph from their most recent email)

...The last two days we worked close to an hour away--to the west of the city. This is a family with four kids. They had a fire and the fire department had their electricity cut off. They were without electricity from October to January. Another CHRPA worker disconnected some of the circuits affected by the fire so that they could get the electricity turned on to the rest of the house. We have been working to re-wire the areas affected by the fire (a kid's bedroom and a bathroom). In the process we discovered that packrats had chewed on the wires in many places exposing the wires. We believe this was the cause of the fire even though the fire department told them it was caused by overloading the circuits. (In fact I heard loud chewing in the wall while we were there!) The father was an illegal immigrant who got caught. He had to return to Mexico for six years before being able to apply for a green card. He is now back in the States legally. He does not have a job and speaks only Spanish. The first day we were there, he was mopping floors and doing laundry--he was singing the whole time! He walks around with a big smile on his face! (Ted looked at the condition of the house and how happy he was and wondered what his living conditions were like in Mexico.) His wife is an American citizen, speaks English and is a health care worker. We were able to get electricity restored to the bathroom and two bedrooms.



Carie opens a baby outfit while Ruth Ann and Judy watch.

A Day in George's Life...

Today can only be described as a marathon which began at dawn with me taking pictures of the rising sun on the rafters for (hopefully) the last time--and finished up in the dark with all the roofing panels on--through one of the most passionately tenacious days I have ever seen a crew pursue. It was supposed to be windy and my camper awoke me just after 3:00 a.m. rocking in the wind. By the time I drifted back to sleep it was time to get up and get going. The wind miraculously calmed and opened the door to a possible completion by tonight. We even had a late start--but jumped right in resuming our rhythm from yesterday. By noon the crew was frozen and exhausted--it was breezy and the sun was mostly behind the clouds--so I sent them packing to the Crossroads store with my credit card to warm up and get lunch, knowing we would need a lot of things to fall our way to finish. They came back and tackled the roof faster and faster and we even improved our lift coordination so that we collided less and smoothly transitioned the panels from the fork to the purlins. We even had a few mishaps--dragging the platform lift out of the soft new fill (thanks to Aaron and our wonderful Williams excavation crews, who went out of their way to prep the areas we needed for our machinery) with the forklift to get onto the last dropped section over the kitchen. We did not get underway there (the last 20% of the entire building) until just after 3:00 pm--but the sun came out for the rest of the afternoon as the temperature dropped--and the last panel went on after the sun had set in its glory--while the guys truly shone. I thought my heart was going to burst with love and admiration for these men, who never considered not getting this done. Thank you to Ben, Bruce, Curt, Kevin, Matthew and Thom--for not just getting it completed--but with perfect eave and rake lines and putting your generous hearts into it as well as your skill. I am most grateful.

-george



DAY 37: sunrise to sunset...labor of love...roofed at last

picture by george

check out more of george's work at his business website:
www.geobarns.com

Treasurer's Report

December and January have been both up and down, with some weeks fairly high, and some weeks quite low. Unfortunately, the lows outweighed the highs, and our shortfall has again widened. I'd rather not be the bearer of bad news, but things are getting tight. In order to make up the gap, by the end of this fiscal year, we would need an average of \$300 more, per week. This works out to roughly 5 or 6 dollars per person, per week. God willing, I believe we can make it! I know times are tight for everyone, but taken in small chunks our deficit isn't insurmountable. Thanks to everyone for your continued support!

■ *Tim Good, Treasurer*

OFFERINGS:

Weekly Offerings:

11/28 - \$1,505
 12/05 - \$2,421
 12/12 - \$1,252
 12/19 - \$1,804
 12/26 - \$2,097
 1/02 - \$1,962
 1/09 - \$1,777
 1/16 - \$1,685
 1/23 - \$1,062
 1/30 - \$1,517

Weekly Target - \$1833

Total: \$17,082

Budget: \$18,330

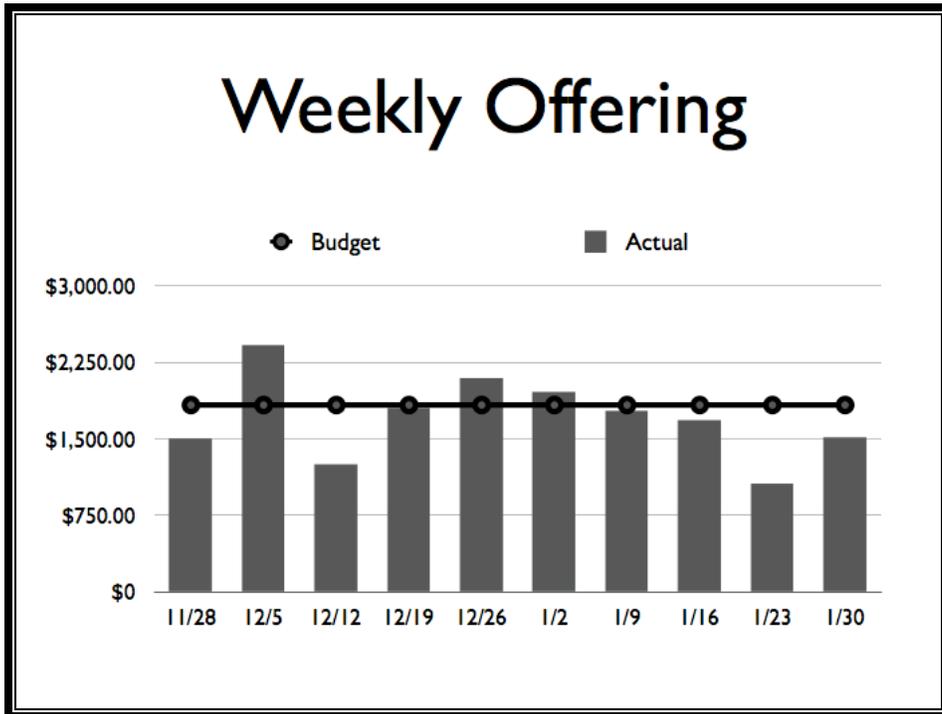
Shortfall: \$1,248

Year-to-date:

Total: \$51,213

Budget: \$54,990

Shortfall: \$3,777



Taftsville Tidbit Trivia *Do you remember when...*

40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 16, 1971

The leadership from Penna. suggested giving John Lutz a ministerial license for 6 months pending the installation of a permanent pastor. The Church Council approved.

35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 5, 1976

Karen Glick and Doreen Brower will take charge of the library for the rest of the Sunday School year.

25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 20, 1986

Nelson and Ellen Krabill lead a group to Mexico City to spend two weeks working there.

20 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 22, 1991

Bethany Birches Camp is reserved for our congregational Winter Play retreat.

10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 4, 2001

Game Night on Sunday! Bring your favorite games and snacks.

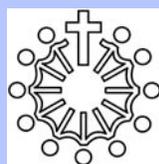
5 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 5, 2006

Discussion and “testing” of new chairs took place; Kerry will present a proposal to the congregation next Sunday based on choice of style & color.

Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship

Located in the village of Taftsville, VT, one block south of Rt. 4 on Happy Valley Road.



Randy Good, Pastor

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

Send your contributions for the Current to: carenswanon@yahoo.com or contact a Newsletter Staff member: Carie Good, Janet North & Virginia Schlabach