



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.

Sam Carbaugh, *Editor*, Carie Good & Virginia Schlabach, *Newsletter Staff*

Lent 2013



Visualizing Revelations

We will be having a series of sermons on the book of Revelation during the Lenten Season. The worship committee (which now consists of Carie Good, Jan Collins and Ann Chalker) asked if I could create banners for Lent. Several times in the past I have created a series of seven banners/posters for Lent at another church we attended. I enjoyed making them. The thought of doing this for the book of Revelation, though, immediately felt daunting and difficult. Revelation is not my favorite book, however it does have abundant visual descriptions. Many of them are bizarre—beasts with multiple eyes or seven heads and ten horns. It is a vision after all, full of lots of symbols. I felt quite overwhelmed at even attempting to portray any of it.

I sat down to read Revelation, making notes of things I could include in banners. Out of these many images and symbols I chose ones that I was attracted to or ones that I thought I might actually be able to draw. Many of the images felt like they were beyond my artistic abilities. The result is going to be a mural of many different symbols and scenes. It will not be the most beautiful thing I have ever created. (I will apologize in advance to the artists in the congregation who are more talented and skilled than I am.)

You may see something on the mural and wonder, “Where did she get that?” Each symbol/scene will have the biblical reference printed on it or near it, so that you

can look them up if you wish. If anyone is interested I can provide a complete list of references. I am including a few symbols/scenes from other books of the Bible which tie in to or are parallel to verses in Revelation. I am not emphasizing wierd beasts and terrifying scenes, although there will be a panel representing the “darker” events described in Revelation. This is still a work in progress—far from completion at this writing—but near the end I plan to incorporate an image from a poster by Pat Marvenko Smith. This will be obvious and her copyright will be on it.

I hope the mural will help all of us to find positive images tucked away in the book of Revelation among the more startling and bizarre things that are described.

—Elinor Shattuck

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Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship

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



Ted Shattuck, Interim Pastor

www.taftsvillechapel.org

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"Button Down"

'Sharing My Toys' at DHMC

by Virginia Schlback

If you haven't yet visited Lynda Knisley's exhibit of mixed-media artwork and the toys that inspired it, there's still time to do so. You'll find the charming, whimsical display in glass cases in the main entrance lobby of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. The exhibit, which has been up since late December, will be taken down on March 7 so don't delay! The accompanying photos are just a taste of what's in store for you.

In response to questions about her "Sharing My Toys" exhibit at DHMC, Lynda shared these reflections on what inspired her work:

A Theme: Victorian Christmas trees loaded with tiny toys and paper oddments intrigue me, as do figures made with bottle caps, corks and wire in Alexander Calder's famous toy circus. Folks detect a theme in this show and ask: "Is this a nostalgia thing, or a collection, or about recycling old stuff?" "Are these ratty, scuffed up frames necessary? Really?" My answer: "Yes and yes really".

Materials: "Ephemera" is defined as "printed matter of passing interest"; sheet music, letters, maps, wall papers, postage stamps, and book covers with no books. Almost everything in this toy art was on its way to the dump, including the toys. The first awkwardly-carved wooden doll I found was in a junk shop; her body broken, her arms and legs in a baggie by her side. To me, she seemed dignified by a hundred years of quiet survival. And who among us does not need to be redeemed?

Assembly: To cut paper is to clearly and simply state colors and shapes. I turned to collage about twelve years ago to help students see large shapes beneath surface detail. I've nagged students to "bake the cake

before you frost it" more times than they care to remember. But layers of fun "ephemera" on top of a highly developed drawing of any subject round it out with darks and lights. Collage materials are the fun part, the sprinkles.

Toys are one of several theme shows that I exhibit informally. One patron purchased thirty pieces on a single visit to Vermont, then donated more than fifty toys (!) she found on Ebay to keep this theme alive. Works for me! Now, viewers write me to reflect on the rearing of their children, describe their grandfather's attic, and remark about specific toys in the glass cases. I've been invited to Tokyo Japan to sell collages at some sort of toy convention. Artists have written to enthuse about "found" materials in their own work. When I find myself marching to the constant demands of school work and assume I have no time to fool around with my own ideas, I think of these encouragements and "find myself" instead, playing with ephemera again.

Someone said that artists make things nobody needs. Not true. We need permission to play.



Wooden animals on wheels inspired "E-I-E-I-O" (from the Old MacDonald song), which mixes painting and collage with old rubber stamps - rooster, pig, etc. - decorating the edges.



"Tinkerbelle" surrounded by a border of Tinkertoys (left) and a painted floppy marionette juxtaposed over an old storybook page titled "One Hot Afternoon" are two examples of Lynda's whimsy.



"Red"

Listen to the Messiah

by Heather Wolfe

This year during Lent, as we study the Book of Revelation, we are listening to selections from Handel's Messiah during our worship services. Many portions of this glorious oratorio come from verses in Revelation. Heather Wolfe reflects on HANDEL'S MESSIAH for Lent:

A full listen to Handel's Messiah has been a decade-long Christmas tradition for me now. However, it is the Lenten sections of the piece that move me most, specifically the chorus from Isaiah 53:6:

*All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;
and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Beginning with a quick-tempo and text of carefree human wanderings, it ends with slow harmonies of heavyhearted consequence. There is such contrast in the arrangement that you can almost feel of the weight of the world's sins put upon our Christ. Every time I hear this sung I cannot help but pray, "I'm so sorry. Forgive me."



"Being Earnest"



"Tea Cozy"

What a sacrifice! The praise offered up in the closing chorus from Revelations 5:12-13 says it all:

*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power,
and riches, and wisdom, and strength,
and honour, and glory, and blessing.
Blessing, and honour, glory and power,
be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne,
and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Community Notes

Dear Ladies,

We just wanted to thank you all for the baby shower and cute and useful gifts for the upcoming birth of our daughter and Jace. So sorry I wasn't able to attend. We really appreciate all the love and support you have shown to us.

Thanks again!

Jenn and Calab

The 12 Scriptures Project:

by Tamar Chalker

On April 7th, we are going to begin The 12 Scriptures Project, which was started by Mennonite Church USA. It is a way for congregations across the country to explore and reflect upon the scriptures that are most important to them. The process will begin with everyone coming up with their own list of favorite or most meaningful verses and we will work together as a church to determine which of those best reflect our community here at Taftsville. We are planning on putting together a presentation that would go on our website and include stories from different members about what the various scriptures mean to them and to our community. We are really excited about this project and hope you are as well, so please feel free to begin thinking about which scriptures you will want to bring to our discussion.

COME CELEBRATE RESURRECTION MORNING!

On Easter morning, at 7 a.m., we will gather at the chapel to remember and reflect on the familiar story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Join us for this meaningful time, as we carry our big wooden cross to

the top of the hill with a simple service of scripture and song. We will return to the chapel to share a wonderful breakfast together before our regular worship service begins at 9:30, which will be filled with hymns of resurrection and celebration. If you aren't able to come on the early morning cross walk, you are still invited to join us for breakfast at 8:00. There will be a sign-up list for breakfast items to bring. Second hour classes will be cancelled on Easter morning.

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Looking for some Lenten Reading?

by Lynda Knisley

When True Simplicity is Gained - Finding Spiritual Clarity in a Complex World

by Martin Marty and Micah Marty

The black and white photographs are stunning, and will pull you in before you read a word. The theme for this book prayers and scriptures is based on the Shaker song called "Simple Gifts". It is one of a series of meditations by this author and photographer who pair their literary and visual thoughts on topics like "Community", "Strength", and "Refuge". It's even restful and reflective as book art before you meet minds with specific ideas on each page; a worthy goal.



Winter in Taftsville. February 24th, 2013

PARADISE LOST AND PARADISE FOUND

The following is taken from an article at firstcenturychristian.com. As we're opening up the mysteries of the Book of Revelation for Lent, here are some interesting things to note:

| In Genesis | In Revelation |
|---|---|
| We saw the material earth created | The earth passes away and a new earth is given (Revelation 21:1) |
| The sun and moon were created. | There is no more need for the sun and moon; Jesus will provide the light (Rev. 22:5; 21:23) |
| We read of the marriage of the first Adam | We see the marriage of the second Adam, Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:7-9) |
| The first appearance of man's great enemy, Satan. | Satan is destroyed in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10) |
| We saw the entrance of sin into the world | Sin is destroyed forever (Revelation 21:27) |
| We saw the beginning of sorrow and suffering | There will be no more sorrow, nor suffering; all these things are done away (Revelation 21:4) |
| The curse is revealed, which settled on all mankind and on the earth because of sin | The curse is removed forever (Revelation 22:3) |
| Immortality was lost; Death and mortality came to all living things | Immortality is restored; death shall be no more (Revelation 21:4) |
| Mankind was cut off from the River and the Tree of Life | The River of Life and the Tree of Life are restored (Rev. 22:1-2) |
| Man forfeited personal communion and fellowship with God | God shall dwell and be with his people (Revelation 21:3) |
| Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus | |



During this Lenten season we are meditating on the book of Revelation. Each week, as we take prayer requests and offer praises, we write them on pieces of paper and put them in the golden bowl before the seven candles and seven stars. We reflect that He who walked among the seven churches walks among us and hears us when we pray.



TAFTSVILLE TIDBITTRIVIA

Do you remember when...

45 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 4, 1968

The treasurer's report at the semi-annual meeting for the year ending Dec.31 shows that after regular expenses, including building maintenance and summer bible school, there is a balance of \$5,546.15. There is a decision to support the Ivan Ramers at Northern Light Missions in Ontario.

February 18, 1968

At the business meeting, it was mentioned how cold the church is on a windy day. Nothing can be done with the present heating unit.

40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 5, 1973

A number of subjects were discussed: youth activities, women's role in the church, small table and chairs for the kindergarten class. Also, "perhaps we could be a little more aware of our children after church so as to cut down on the commotion at times."

March 5, 1973

It was decided as a church project to purchase a new gas range for the Bethany Birches Camp. The present one is very old and in need of repair.

35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 9, 1978

Council reviewed the entries for naming "the other side", narrowing it down to three possibilities upon which the congregation will vote. They are "the Library", "the Fellowship Center" and "The Millen Room". Winner of the contest gets a \$10.00 gift certificate to the Provident Bookstore.

March 14, 1978

Mary Guntz was in charge of the March meeting. There was an Easter craft idea that proved enjoyable to everyone. Additional time was spent scraping paint off the newly painted windows in the Millen Room. Mary reported that the total cost for the drapes and renovations for the Millen Room was \$1857.37.

30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 25, 1983

Nelson and Ellen Kraybill move into their new apartment in Taftsville.

March 8, 1983

Nelson is willing to turn the heating system on each Saturday if the church housekeeper for the month asks him to.

20 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 9, 1993

Council would like to make scholarships available for attending the General Assembly in Philadelphia. this would be for people who did not grow up in the Mennonite Church and would like to experience the larger Mennonite church.

10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 26, 2003

There was a continuation of the discussion regarding use of the 20K gift. Roy shared some of the building projects that the trustees are considering such as repairing the front porch, repapering and painting the upstairs, updating the kitchen, new chairs for the meeting room, and perhaps remodeling the attic for Sunday school expansion or a youth space. The council decided to release 25% (\$5000) of the gift at this time for building projects, and the trustees will be obtaining estimates.

Treasurer's Report

Thanks to everyone for all of your continued and amazing generosity! It seems that all at once, just this month I have received thank-you notes from many of the organizations and individuals we help support, including:

- The Haven (Thanksgiving Offering)
- SEVCA (Thanksgiving Offering)
- Health in Harmony (Ongoing support)
- Colleen Estes / Living Hope (Ongoing support)
- Victoria Dandurand (Mission trip to Dominican Republic)

They have all expressed how grateful they are for our gifts, prayers and support, and I just wanted to pass these notes of thanks on to you all! So Thank You!!

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| Jan 20, 2012 | \$2,463.00 | 4-Week Budget: | \$7,558.80 |
| Jan 27, 2012 | \$1,135.00 | 7-Week Total: | \$8,365.00 |
| Feb 3, 2013 | \$3,222.00 | Total YTD Budget: | \$62,360.13 |
| Feb 10, 2012 | \$1,545.00 | Total YTD Received: | \$61,837.31 |

Weekly Offering

