



# 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*

April 2013

## ***Blooming in the Midst of Affliction***



At the entrance to our well where we park our car there is a concrete “apron”, all broken up, hard and uninviting. During the summer it was surrounded by weeds that I hadn’t had time to pull. Somehow, in the midst of the weeds and out of the broken concrete, a single flower had germinated and bloomed. Behind it was the thick, solid concrete floor. From time to time a snake liked to sun himself next to the flower because the door faces south and gets a lot of sun. In the middle of the day it can get beastly hot there. Every time we backed the car out we drove over the same spot, always just missing the flower, and every time I opened and closed the door it rolled by and rubbed against the flower – there seemed to be just enough space behind the flower that the door didn’t crush it.

I didn’t plant the flower, I didn’t fertilize it; I never watered it, even in the midst of the summer drought. In the face of such a hostile environment it had bloomed and flourished, in spite of the intense heat that the spot got in its southern exposure.

Sometimes life just wears us down. For some it might be balancing work and family responsibilities, Lyme Disease, chronic back pain or a house that won’t sell but continues to demand attention, viz. scraping, painting and a myriad of other repairs. Often it builds into all of those things at the same time. Sometimes we just get to feeling overwhelmed. One summer day when burdens were piling up I walked by the ell, and as if for the first time, I noticed the little flower that was smiling in the midst of all that adversity and the imagery really landed. It was as if the Spirit put it there at just the right time just for me. The Parable of the Soils maybe, except that this flower wasn’t overcome by adversity like poor soil, or rocky ground, or scorching heat.

The image of the flower brought me up short every time I rounded the corner, rushing into the ell for the next busy thing, and brought some perspective. I keep the photo of the flower on my desktop now.

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life... Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 28 But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! 29 And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. (Luke 12:22ff)

Ted

## ***Homer’s 95th Birthday***



Homer celebrated his 95th birthday on April 22, 2013 and we had birthday cake and a card shower for him during coffee time on April 21.

### **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](http://www.taftsvillechapel.org)

Send your contributions for the Current to: [samuel.carbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:samuel.carbaugh@gmail.com) or contact a Newsletter Staff member: Carie Good & Virginia Schlabach

## ***Taftsville Graduates***

**HIGH SCHOOL:** All three of our high school seniors will graduate from Hartford High School in June.

**Ben Beidler** will work as a counselor at Bethany Birches Camp this summer. He is enrolled this fall at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA, where he plans to major in computer science.

**Hayden Cox** will be working for a nearby farmer in May, June, and July and then plans to do “work crew” at Young Life Saranac for the month of August. After that he will live at “Ivanwold” and work at the “Cedars” in the Washington DC area. This will be the same gap year that Haylie and Hudson did, working behind the scenes in the ongoing hospitality work of the National Prayer Breakfast in DC.

**Victoria Dandurand** will work as a summer counselor at Bethany Birches Camp. In the fall she will attend Asbury University, Wilmore, KY, for Spanish education. Attending this university also offers her the opportunity for horse riding/care/competing.

## **COLLEGE**

**Kristin Carbaugh** graduates from Plymouth State University with a Master’s Degree in Education, with a specialization in Literacy. She has been working toward this goal for many years, and is happy to be finishing.

**Haylie Cox** graduates from Marymount University with a degree in computer science. She has been offered a project manager job at New Target, the web design company in Washington, DC, where she has been working for these past few years. Haylie has been invited to Germany the end of May to meet the extended family of her very significant other “JP” Morgan. (Not the JP Morgan that might immediately come to mind! JP is also a very close friend to Hunter.)

**Hunter Cox** graduates from St John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland. St John’s is a “Great Books School” and offers the same classical education as a Harvard Law Degree in the 1920’s (so I’ve been told!). Hunter plans to continue working at Rental Works in a managerial position before he decides to travel on the Trans Siberian Railroad for a time (stay tuned!).

**Emily Glick** graduates from University of Vermont with a degree in art history. She hopes to work

in a museum someday but is presently trying to get a position through AmeriCorps. While she is awaiting an answer, she will be at King Arthur Flour and is hoping to get her own apartment.

## **Updates on Other Young Adults**

**Hudson Cox** is waiting to hear back on scholarship information from Clarkson University in upstate NY. If that doesn’t work out for him, he’s thinking of moving to Oregon with a friend and going to community college there next year.

**Seth Dandurand**, home from college in Canada for the summer, will serve as maintenance director at Bethany Birches Camp.

- Compiled by Virginia Schlabach with special thanks to Karen Cox and Jane Glick for the information and parenthetical comments!

## ***Create a Pillow Day***



Eleven ladies from Taftsville enjoyed a yummy potluck breakfast together on Saturday morning, April 13, and then the downstairs was transformed into a busy sewing studio as nine of the women stayed to create a unique pillow of their own. Design options and special fabrics were shared and discussed, and then the sewing machines started humming. Most were able to nearly finish their pillows before it was time to clean and pack up, and the final steps completed at home. We made patio cushion covers, showcased a special heirloom embroidery and a vintage handkerchief, created a heart-shaped pillow, a square box pillow, decorative couch pillows and quilted bed pillows. It was a day of fun and fellowship and produced unique craft to brighten our homes for spring!

## ***Toaster Oven***

Lynda Knisley is looking for a basic toaster oven for the Art Dept. at Mid Vermont Christian School. If you have one to donate, please bring it any Sunday, and THANK YOU!

## **TAFTSVILLE TIDBIT TRIVIA**

Do you remember when...

### **45 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

*May 11, 1968*

Congratulations go to Allen Guntz and Mary Mast who were united in Holy Matrimony.

*May 26, 1968*

The premiere issue of "News Notes" includes this item: "On Wednesday evening of this past week, the members of Taftsville Mennonite Church met at John Lutz's home to discuss the formation of a Church Council to plan the overall program of our congregation. A Council consisting of James Millen, Murray Beidler, Omar Zook, Ken Lind, Richard Glick and John Lutz were elected. The first meeting will be held May 30th."

*May 30, 1968*

The adequacy of our heating system was discussed. It was felt that with diligent efforts on the part of the janitor to start the heater early enough, and additional electric heaters, we could make-do for the present.

*June 9, 1968*

The new church council considered limited remodeling of the building, including improving the restroom facilities. "Due to the difficulty in obtaining water, and the constant threat of freezing during the coldest weather, no immediate solution was reached."

### **40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

*May 19, 1973*

It was requested that we have more special singing in our morning worship services.

*June 3, 1973*

There will be a special Ascension Day service for the 4 Vermont churches, at Bethany Birches Camp. Each family is to bring their own lunch for the noon meal. This will be followed by Fellowship and Installation Service for Abram Landis as overseer of the Vermont churches, starting late afternoon and evening with pot-luck supper at the camp.

*June 18, 1973*

A two week evening Bible School is again planned for this summer. "Only eternity will reveal all the results of the seed sown at our Bible School".

### **35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

*May 30, 1978*

Those interested in spending time in prayer for each Sunday morning service, please meet in the Millen Room, 5-10 minutes prior to the morning service.

### **30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

*May 1, 1983*

Henry Paul Yoder is with us to share at the Installation service for Nelson Kraybill

*June 16, 1983*

The church council met at the home of Omar and Janice Zook. The report of the treasurer was interrupted by thunder, which brought the neighbor's dog straight into the house and under the bed. Considerable commotion ensued as the entire Zook family tried to evict the elusive cowardly canine. When order was finally restored, the somewhat out of breath treasurer reported a balance of \$2885.98.

*June 25, 1983*

Family Music Festival at Bethany Birches Camp. A group from Woodstock Baptist Fellowship sharing original gospel bluegrass consists of John Waldo, Nancy Pejouhy, and Randy Good.

*June 26, 1983*

A special congregational meeting was held to consider plans for the basement project. It will require more money than expected to tear up the old concrete. A motion was made to complete the entire basement project. After much discussion, the motion was withdrawn in the interest of harmony. The matter will be taken up again at the next meeting.

### **15 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

*May 31, 1998*

Spring Hike – Meet at the Good's at 3:30. We will carpool to the trailhead for an easy hike up the carriage trail to the top of Mt. Tom. Light refreshments back at the Goods afterwards.

*June 25, 1998*

The children collected \$105.00 which is being sent to the London Mennonite Center.

### **10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

*May 4, 2003*

Ken Sensenig, Mennonite storyteller, will be in the area in early May, and will be sharing a message with our congregation on Sunday morning.

*May 28, 2003*

John Lutz noted the excited participation of our children when they collected weekly offerings (totalling \$189.55) for the African bicycle project. He suggested that we explore way to include "giving stories" in our regular children's talks.