

# 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.

Jan Collins, Editor; Carie Good, Janet North & Virginia Schlabach, Newsletter Staff

March 2009

"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

## Get ready! Get set! Go meditate!

It doesn't work like that, does it? It's no surprise that our lives are not usually geared toward having the time and space to really soak in anything, whether a hot bath, a sunrise, or the heart and soul of the Scriptures. Nevertheless, time and space is needed. There is a pretty good chance, if we gave it some thought, we would be able to make some adjustments in our schedules to find a bit of unhurried time each day to engage with the Scriptures, meditate on what is being said, and reflect on how it impacts us.

This year, during Lent, we would like to encourage a personal daily time of interacting with the Scriptures in reflection, journaling and writing. We have prepared a small booklet, with suggested Bible readings and space to write your thoughts and reflections, which we hope will facilitate this for you. We will be reading the parallel accounts of the Easter story in the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each of you would be reading and writing as individuals, but we as a body will all be following the same daily readings. This journal is yours and what you write is private. Our hope is that this will encourage you in your spiritual life during this season of Lent and Easter, and deepen our worship as a community.

We also have a second goal for this season of Lent. We would like to assemble a devotional booklet for Lent *next year* with daily meditations written by *you* – the members of Taftsville. (You may recall that we wrote an Advent devotional booklet in 2002.) We would like to ask each of you to submit two Easter-related reflections. You may select something that you have written during Lent this year or combine some of the thoughts you have written in your journal on different days. At the end of the booklet are additional ideas of things that you could write about to share with the congregation. We would like to ask you to submit these two writings by April 26, 2009 and they will be compiled for next year. If you enjoy writing, do not feel limited to two!

We hope that you will enjoy the season of reflection during Lent this year and we look forward to what each of you will share!

From the worship "committee", Elinor, Janice, Carie

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DURING LENT...

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**"Put your finger here: see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."**

**Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"**

**Then Jesus told him, " Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."**

*John 20:27-29*

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## **"You've got questions - We've Got Answers"...**

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Although that might sound a bit presumptuous, it's a slogan that works well in marketing *Radio Shack* products. It's probably not a healthy slogan for the church. But it got your attention, right? As Christians we might rather, confidently say that "the Scriptures have the answers", and so we search the Scriptures. The fact is that we all have questions. Just spend a little time listening to some of the "second hour" discussions and that becomes clear.

Here at Taftsville we've looked in depth at Romans and Hebrews over the last two years, and in the conclusion of both letters the writers spend considerable time addressing the question, "therefore...how shall we then live?" We did come

away with some answers, but surely many questions remain. What questions do you have? As Randy concludes our study in Hebrews we have been wondering where to go next? Is there another book of Scripture that intrigues you? Are there some "how shall I then live" kinds of topical subjects to explore? What would be most helpful for you? We invite you to share your thoughts and suggestions with any of the members of the leadership, and that includes our sorely neglected seventh member. Remember? The little white box in the Millen Room?

You've got questions - what are they? Let's look for answers together.

- Ted Shattuck

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## **All Aboard for OHIO!**

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Now that the fundraising has begun in earnest it's time to share more details about the youth trip to the Convention 2009 ("Breathe and Be Filled") in Ohio. At this point, we are hoping to have the following youth in attendance: Hudson, Hayden, Victoria, Seth, Noah, Ben, Dimitri, and Gabbi. Adult chaperones will be Nancy, Dave, Allison and Tim. During the next few months we will be working on expectations for the youth.

We will be leaving from Taftsville at 5:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 30 and returning Sunday, July 5, by noon. We will be staying at the Hyatt Regency Hotel (attached to the Convention Center). It is approximately 700 miles to Columbus and should take about 12 hours. Adults over the age of 25 will share the driving duties. (Nancy will be the designated driver Saturday night. She'll skip the closing service and get a good night's sleep from 4:00 until 11:00 p.m. and be ready to roll when the service ends.)

### Estimated Costs:

- Convention Registration: \$180 per person x 12 = \$2160
- Hotel: \$99 per night per room x 4 rooms = \$1600
- Transportation: \$750 (van rental) + \$250 gasoline
- Food: approximately \$125 per person

So far we have raised enough money to cover registrations for 11 people. We need to raise approximately \$2700 more to cover the hotel, transportation and one more registration. We will bring breakfast foods for mornings, and sandwich fixings for lunches. We will eat at least one dinner at the convention and find (cheap) places for our other dinners (no fast food!).

### Future Fundraising opportunities:

- Karen and Vickie had talked about organizing a dinner in March.
- Youth had suggested a car wash in April and a yard sale in May.
- We are still hoping to raise money by cleaning the church.
- We welcome other suggestions.

If you would like to know more about the convention visit

[www.mennoniteusa.org/convention](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/convention). Our experience at Convention 2007 was incredible and we are looking forward to having our youth share in this amazing time of fellowship with literally thousands of Christ-centered teens.

Thank you for all the support you give us! If you have any questions or suggestions feel free to contact Nancy or Allison.

- Nancy Pejouhy

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## Library Nook

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### TWO BOOKS generously donated to our library:

SILENT NIGHT by Sue Thomas - is an absorbing autobiography by a deaf woman who experienced the hand of God in her life as a figure skating champion, an accomplished pianist, and an agent for the FBI. In spite of obstacles most people would find devastating, Thomas describes a life of uncommon courage and success.

### UNDER THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

True Stories of Faith and Adventure by David H. Siegrist - is a compilation of faith-building experiences connected with the Northern Light Gospel Missions in Ontario, Canada. The writers hope their harrowing adventures will preserve a sense of dramatic encounter with God's goodness "in the wild" for generations of readers intrigued by mission living.

- Lynda Knisley, Librarian

**The Haiti loose change offering on February 22 was \$55.75.** People are invited to collect loose change in mission banks at home throughout the month of March and bring them back to church on March 29. The money collected will go to Leah Beidler's ministry for children in Haiti.

### Additions to the CHILDREN'S SECTION of the library:

#### Board Books:

You're All My Favorites by Sam McBratney  
My First Book of Bedtime Prayers illustrated by Matt Faulkner

#### Books:

Guess Who, Baby Duck by Amy Hest  
The Animal Hedge by Paul Fleischman  
A Christmas Like Helen's by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock  
The Circle of Days by Reeve Lindbergh  
Rosie and Buttercup by Chieri Uegaki  
Are You Sleepy, Petey? by Marie Hodge  
Noah's Ark illustrated by Jerry Pinkney  
Noah's Ark illustrated by Lisbeth Zwerger  
Let's Be Kind by P.K. Hallinan  
Let's Be Thankful by P.K. Hallinan

#### DVDs

**Veggie Tales** A Snoodle's Tale-A Lesson in Self Worth  
**Veggie Tales** The Ballad of Little Joe-A Lesson in Facing Hardship  
Taftsville Advent 2008 (2 copies)

You'll notice we have added two different versions of the Noah story. Though each is obviously using a bible story there is a bit of difference in how they approach it. More importantly, each illustrator brings his or her unique vision to the page. Each is wonderful in a different way.

- Melissa Ayers, Librarian

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## Health In Harmony - excerpts from January 30 E-mail

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This last month has been another exciting one for Health In Harmony and the *Alam Sehat Lestari* program in Indonesia.

First, the **ambulance is now here!!** Thank you to everyone who donated to make it possible. We figure this must be the first ambulance in the world that will not only help save people but will also help save the rainforest. Communities asked for discounted ambulance service as part of the "package" of benefits they receive each month if there is no illegal logging or burning in the National Park near their village. Everyone can call for pick-up but it will be cheaper if they come from a green village. Please check out our website for pictures ([www.healthinharmony.org/reports.html](http://www.healthinharmony.org/reports.html)).

In other news, Sukadana has had a very bad day for worms. AmeriCares donated enough worm medication to treat 4000 patients. Our whole team and a public health volunteer organized weekly community-wide worm eradication meetings ([www.healthinharmony.org/partners.html](http://www.healthinharmony.org/partners.html)). Our first day saw 175 people treated, intensive instruction in hand-washing, and a moving story about a little boy, Timo, who eventually died from a combination of factors - no access to clean water as a result of deforestation, poor hand-washing, expensive healthcare, malnutrition from lack of food and a nasty worm infection, and diarrhea. Stories like these reflect the realities of local people and demonstrate the clear links among poverty, poor health, and ecosystem destruction.

We are breaking the chain leading to the death of villagers like Timo by helping protect watersheds, by providing affordable, high-quality health care, by allowing people to pay for health care with labor or goods, and by doing community education about how people can protect their own health. And now we are helping protect people in another way - **free birth control**.

We developed a fast-track for birth control many months ago, setting up a system for villagers to see ASRI clinic nurses for immediate consultation, but found it was still not being used optimally. After some deliberation, we decided to provide birth control for free. Three months of birth control costs us only about \$1.20/person to purchase and - given the huge impact it has on family well-being,

preserving the long-term future of the fragile ecosystems here, and the health of the planet - we opted to provide it for free. On our first day, 20 women lined up for the treatment. **I was shocked: the sum of \$1.20/three months had been keeping women from having access to something they desperately wanted.**

You can protect the planet and allow families in Borneo to focus more resources on the children they have. By helping us pay for free birth control, children will be better fed, more children will be able to stay in school, and some of the most amazing rain forests in the world will have a better chance at survival.

Best wishes from Indonesia, *Kinari Webb*  
[www.healthinharmony.org/help.html](http://www.healthinharmony.org/help.html)

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### **Hayley Bolin in Cebu** *Email received by Kevin Cox*

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Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Valentine's Day! I hope you have all had a wonderful few months. My parents were able to visit in late January/early February, which was great. They returned to Texas a few weeks ago, so now it's just the ants and lizards for roommates.

A few days ago I overheard a conversation between two of our social workers discussing their new clients. One sighed, "She'd been in it so long she had started to like it." The comment caught my attention. I knew many clients were dependent on their pimps and felt like they owed them something, or even felt like their traffickers loved them. I knew many young clients initially chose to work in clubs so they could help support their families. To think that a victim enjoyed the actual work, however, was quite stunning. In thinking about why this might be, I remembered the story of *The Silver Chair*, the fourth book in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and always my favorite.

In *The Silver Chair*, two British schoolchildren find themselves in Narnia, where Aslan sends them to find the lost Prince Rilian. (Fair warning: plot spoiler coming up.) Along the way, they find an additional companion named Puddleglum. After a variety of mishaps and adventures the three eventually locate the Prince, but he is trapped in an underground kingdom. The evil Queen of the Underworld has cast a spell on him, which makes him believe that the Underworld is a wonderful place and that any memory he has of Narnia is just

a foolish dream. The two children and Puddleglum try to convince him otherwise and explain that they are there to rescue him, but he only replies that he is enjoying himself and that the Queen takes good care of him. The longer the children are in the underworld the more the Queen's spell works on them, and they slowly begin to forget Narnia as well. Eventually, Puddleglum puts out the fire that is the source of the spell, declaring his loyalty to Aslan and Narnia. They defeat the evil Queen, release the prince and escape back to the world of truth and light.

Once Prince Rilian is free from the Queen's spell, he tells the children, "Now that I am myself, I can remember that enchanted life, though while I was enchanted I could not remember my true self." I think that is the struggle for many of IJM's clients. They cannot remember their true selves. The client I mentioned above was trapped in the Underworld for so long that she had begun to enjoy it. She began to believe that this was all life had to offer, and was resentful of those who believed there was another world possible, full of light and hope. Every day, the words and actions of others around her told her she was only an object, a commodity, and she began to believe it. She had forgotten that her true self was a princess in God's kingdom, with dignity and respect.

Please pray that our clients will remember their true selves.

With hope, *Haley Bolin*



## Schedule for March

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

### March

- 1 9:30 am – First Sunday in Lent
- 7 7:00 pm – Men’s Breakfast / *Eaton’s Sugar House*
- 8 Leadership Team Meeting
- 11 Church Council Meeting
- 13 Pastoral Care Team Meeting
- 14 8:00 am – Women’s Breakfast / *Mountain Creamery*
- 22 9:30 am – Ekklesia
- 24 6-9:00 pm – Murray Williams of Anabaptist Network with meal to follow
- 25 Deadline for April issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*
- 29 9:30 am – Song Service / *Birthday Song (November–March)*

| Taftsville Tally |            |            |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| February         | Attendance | Offering   |
| 1                | 45         | \$1,225.00 |
| 8                | 46         | 1,828.00   |
| 15               | 56         | 1,175.00   |
| 22               | 64         | 1,509.00   |

*Please note that these totals do not always reflect the final tally.*

### March Birthdays

- |                         |                   |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Mary Guntz            | 14 Nicholas Wolfe | 26 Haylie Cox     |
| 12 Addison Wanner       | 21 Sarah Glick    | 27 Evelyn McCrory |
| 13 Ruth Ellen Dandurand | 22 Darlene Snader | 28 Fred Schlabach |

### March Childcare

- 1 Carmeleta Beidler
- 8 Dave/Caren Swanson
- 15 Hanna Cox
- 22 Nancy Pejouhy
- 29 Janet North

### March Song Leaders

- 1 Carmeleta Beidler
- 8 Janice Zook
- 15 Richard Glick
- 22 Janet North
- 29 Omar Zook

### March Coffee

- 1 Nancy Pejouhy
- 8 Janet North
- 15 Karen Cox
- 22 Ken Glick
- 29 Abner Schlabach

### March Cleaning

- 7 Deitrich
- 14 Deitrich
- 21 Esch
- 28- Esch

## English Anabaptist Network leader comes to Taftsville

In your church mailboxes today, along with this issue of *Current*, you'll find a flyer inviting you to an evening with Stuart Murray Williams on March 24. The details are still being worked out, but the evening will begin with a simple supper using a communion liturgy written by Stuart’s wife Sian and end with a presentation by Stuart on the challenges of Anabaptist Christian faith in the United Kingdom. Folks from Bethany congregation will be working with us in hosting this event, as both churches are connected with the UK Anabaptist Network through support of Krista Ehst.

Although the flyer gives a brief biography of Stuart, I would like to personalize it a bit. When Nelson Kraybill, former pastor here at Taftsville Chapel, was program director at the London

Mennonite Centre in the 1990s, he and Stuart began a journal called *Anabaptism Today*, which included articles and book reviews on “Christian discipleship in the radical tradition”. Nelson left London a few months before Abner and I began serving as host couple at the Mennonite Centre, and during our three years there I worked on the journal with Stuart, he as editor and I as production editor. Abner and I learned to appreciate Stuart’s excellent communication skills, both as a writer and speaker, and were blessed and challenged by his deep commitment to faith lived out from an Anabaptist perspective. We are delighted that our congregation has this opportunity to interact with Stuart on issues of faith that affect both American and UK Christians in today’s increasingly-secular world.

- Virginia Schlabach

*Christ and We*

*Christ has no hands but our hands, To do His work today;  
He has no feet but our feet, To lead men in His way;  
He has no tongue but our tongues, To tell men how He died;  
He has no help but our help, To bring them to His side.*

*We are the only Bible, The careless world will read;  
We are the sinner's gospel, We are the scoffer's creed;  
We are the Lord's last message, Given in deed and word—  
What if the line is crooked? What if the type is blurred?*

*What if our hands are busy, With other work than His?  
What if our feet are walking, Where sin's allurements is?  
What if our tongues are speaking, Of things His lips would spurn?  
How can we hope to help Him, Unless from Him we learn?*

*Annie Johnson Flint*

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## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

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*Do you remember when...*

### 40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*March 6, 1969*

Dale Heisey presented ideas and visions for weekly activities in Taftsville during the summer months with hopes to involve the community and become better acquainted with them.

*March 31, 1969*

The "Ski-Horse" project is completed, and \$990.36 is sent to the Ivan Ramers at Northern Light Gospel Mission in Ontario for a new ski mobile.

### 35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*March 29, 1974*

Spring Workshop with Howard Zehr leading "Making Congregational Witnessing Effective in the Community." Sessions will be held at Bartonsville and Andover.

### 30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*March 18, 1979*

Dan Gruber of Lion of Judah will give us presentation of "Messiah in the Passover". It will be geared for all ages.

### 25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*March 25, 1984*

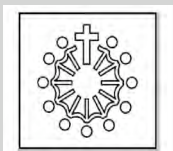
After years of resisting the temptation to write on restroom walls, Nelson will finally have an opportunity to do just that. Council appointed him to design signs for the new restroom doors.

### 10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*March 21, 1999*

Taftsville History Night - Come with finger foods, beverages and your Taftsville memories. Slides and stories will be provided.

## Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship



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

**Randy Good, Pastor**

**(802) 457-1516**

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

Send your contributions for

**"The Taftsville Chapel Current" to:**

[rdjgcollins@mac.com](mailto:rdjgcollins@mac.com)

OR slip a note in my church mailbox

OR contact a Newsletter Staff Member:

Carie Good, Janet North, and Virginia Schlabach