

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

Summer 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

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Giving and Serving

In The Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6:1-4)

Over the years that Elinor and I have attended Taftsville we have watched and listened and have been continually amazed at the giving, the ministry and the service that goes on within the church, and out from the church that never gets mentioned or acknowledged. We've also learned that those doing the giving would have it no other way. Individual members give and serve and minister to others, both in the church and "out there" and those right hands and left hands are rarely aware of what has been done. In fact those doing the giving would be embarrassed and perhaps discouraged from doing the acts of service if they thought that their kindness was "exposed". They do it because it is their nature to serve.

That nature was never clearer than during budget discussion at the annual congregational meeting this past Sunday. That was when we all learned that the recession that we have read about in the newspaper and heard about on the news had come to the Body of Christ at Taftsville. Our ability to give - in the corporate financial sense - was crippled by the effects of the recession, and the proposed budget for the year ahead impacted generous hearts like a brick. There was a call to prayer, there was a palpable determination to rise to the challenge, to dig deeper and boost the offerings, and there were personal commitments to increase tithes and offerings.

As the collective voice of the congregation was expressing disbelief and dismay that there would be little giving reflected in the new budget I was conflicted. I didn't want to interrupt the momentum to increase offerings and continue the financial support to those ministries that need it more now than ever. My heart was saying, "But wait, the budget is such a tiny component of Taftsville's giving! What about all the things that the right hand and the left hand haven't spoken of, and haven't heard about?

I thought about financial contributions and what we hadn't talked about. It's a fact that most members financially support more than the Taftsville budget with their giving. I know they do. So the figures represented in our church budget are hardly representative of the total "giving" by the congregation.

Giving in secret is a biblical concept that has not been intentionally taught at Taftsville, nor has there been a need to teach it. It has always been the nature of the body of believers at Taftsville to be "unselfconscious" in their giving. And it continues to be. The recession has not drawn us into some sort of financial unfaithfulness.

I fully expect that offerings will increase. In fact I believe the trend has begun already. Randy wondered in his sermon if the tough financial times might present an opportunity for us to be more creative in our giving and service. Why not both?

-Ted Shattuck

My Baptism - Amena Reese

Sunday afternoon, July 19, proved to me to be perfect in every way. I was blessed to be surrounded by dear church family folks and my Jake at the edge of Mary Fullerton's pond for my baptism. I was baptized as a wee child, but knew that it was a mockery so I approached Randy last year asking to be baptized "as a believer". Sunday, we gathered and walked to the pond's edge, a weeping willow for a gentle, quiet canopy. I felt embraced by love, faith, and song. I was grateful for my Jake and for the efforts taken by others to witness this happening.

The pond was warm enough, the bottom gooey. I slid in my shoes and was thinking that I would get dunked before being baptized! Yikes! Randy said a few "Randy-esk" words and a thoughtful prayer. I remember feeling so peaceful and calm. I knew it was ever so important to me to proclaim loudly that "my soul belongs to Jesus, my Lord and Savior." I needed for the world - and beyond - to be very clear on that! I am home! I belong to God!

After being lowered in the water, I came up overwhelmed with emotion and sobbed. The level of relief I felt surprised me. I still can't quite put words to it. All I know is that I belong to Someone who is my Protector, Guide, and Life's Leader. I am safe, at home, belonging to my God. My heart is full.



Photos by Roy Aloisio

Address/Phone Changes

Jake & Amena Reess

29 S. Greenwood Forest Dr.
Etowah, NC 28729
828-989-7574

Heather and Nick Wolfe

1013 Wayside Rd
Woodstock, VT 05091
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Email address is the same however we will not have internet service at our new home, thus only checking emails during the work week.

Ross & Jessica Reitz

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757-539-1440

Sheldon & Monica Esch

Josiah & Owen
817 Martha Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-399-0224

Thank-you Notes

To the Taftsville Family,

Allen and I want to say Thanks for the very nice flower arrangement we received in memory of my mother, Miriam Mast.

We appreciated your prayers and cards also. She was a wonderful mother and will be missed, but we have good memories.

Mary & Allen

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On June 9th, a local Taftsville family received permission to use the church for a small family gathering following a burial at the Taftsville cemetery. We recently received this note:

**Thank you so much for the use of your Chapel after my mother's funeral (Della Osmer).** I used to go to your Bible School on Sundays fifty some odd years ago at this very Chapel. It was a schoolhouse then. I can't express how [much] this gesture meant to us all. God bless you all for your kindness.

*Jan Woodard, Kathy Ducharme, Robin Osmer and our families.*

### Birth Announcement

Our daughter was born -- **Ezra Grace Gerety**, 9 lb. 8 oz., born at home on May 14. She's happy and healthy and has a load of reddish-brown hair!  
Lord bless you,  
*Heather and Silver*

### Moving to Etowah NC

Jake and I will be moving too soon away from my dear friends and "family" of Taftsville Chapel. My time here has been oh so brief. "Thank you" cannot begin to convey my gratitude for your welcoming warmth. That has made THE difference in my wanderings to know Jesus as my Lord and Savior. You've taught me well as examples of walking the talk. I carry that gift in my heart always.

I've spent four weeks (two trips) trundling furniture down to our new home. I was able to participate in worship in the two Mennonite chapels closest to our town of Etowah. I was amazed at the difference of each experience. The Asheville Mennonite Church may be a place to begin the next peace/piece of my journey. Nothing, though, can be the same as the "first time" of worship for me at Taftsville...And all the singing and fellowship since. In deep appreciation for all of you and who you are. May our God bless you and keep you, always!

*Amena Reess*

*New contact information listed above*

### Editor's Note to Congregation

As a follow-up to our discussion at the Annual Meeting about whether or not you would like to receive a paper copy of the this newsletter, please notify me my email [rdjgcollins@mac.com](mailto:rdjgcollins@mac.com) or call 802-295-5123 if you would prefer to receive a paper copy. If I do not hear from you I will assume that you will be reading future issues on the Taftsville Chapel website <http://www.taftsvillechapel.org/>.

*Jan Collins*



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## Mennonite Convention – Columbia, Ohio

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On June 30<sup>th</sup> 6 adults and 7 youth climbed in a large van and drove to Ohio for the Mennonite USA Convention. Participants on this trip were Dave Beidler, Ted Shattuck, Nancy Pejouhy, Tim and Allison Good, Ruth Ellen Danderand, Dimitri Eisenberg, Seth Danderand, Vicki Danderand, Gabbi Webber, Ben Beidler, Hudson Cox, Hayden Cox. On the return trip home, the group stopped at Niagara Falls. Below are comments from some of these convention participants. Rosalind Andreas also attended the convention and submitted a reflection.



The cow was our mascot at the convention

"What a joy it was to be with this special group of kids and adults! The messages each day were amazing and the worship was awesome!" - Nancy

"I thought the convention was a really cool experience. The speakers were awesome! I especially liked the "Shane" (with the dreadlocks) because he seemed down to earth. I'm looking forward to our next trip!" - Hayden

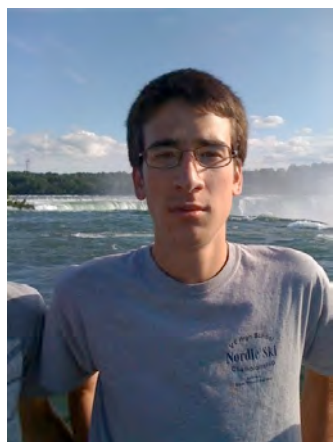
"I can't explain enough how great an opportunity it was for our small youth group to be able to go and experience worship with over 5,000 other Mennonite youth. It was cool to see our youth group grow closer together amongst ourselves and with God..." - Hudson

"Spending 24 hours riding in a van and being together for four days was an eye-opener to the personalities and habits of my fellow youth groupers. I enjoyed the singing and the speakers a lot. It was a great opportunity and I look forward to the next youth convention." - Gabbi

"I haven't experienced an event like that since I went to a Rolling Stones concert in Boston about 35 years ago. Thank the Lord for ear plugs." - Ted

"It was awesome...especially the worship and praise times!" - Seth

"I would have to say my favorite thing about convention was our service trip we did. It showed me that there are people who are less fortunate than me in the world and that we should help do God's work and help those less fortunate than ourselves." - Ben



Seth



Ben



Victoria & Gabbi



Dimitri

Enjoying Niagara Falls

## Convention comments continued

"I enjoyed attending the youth convention with the youth. Worshiping in a hockey arena with approximately 4000 youth was a high energy, exciting time. I could feel the Holy Spirit pulsing through the arena. We were challenged and encouraged by the various speakers. A significant moment for me was when the audience was invited to bring a small mirror, which we had been given the previous evening. We were asked to write on the mirrors a fear or burden that we had been carrying. I sat in the arena and listened to the mirrors being dropped in boxes and wheelbarrows placed through out the arena. I was aware of some of the things that the youth from Taftsville face, and it struck me force fully that those mirrors represented a tremendous amount of heart ache and loss. Tears streamed down my face as I listened to the mirrors fall and break. I think I was able to realize in a new way Jesus' tremendous load of sin and grief that he carried to the cross for me." – *Dave*

"For me, being amongst people in the larger Mennonite Church as God's Spirit moves in many ways and forms, helps me focus on following Jesus to bring 'healing and hope' into the communities of which I am a part. Singing, worshiping, hearing God's Word, breathing in God's Spirit and the love of Jesus" and learning more about how others live out that love inspire my heart and mind. Meeting 'the Taftsville contingent' on High Street outside the Convention Center made me feel at home!

I attended the special session designed to help church people listen, hear, respect and keep on talking when we disagree--rather than "shutting down" or even leaving the church. The goal was to see if we could apply the principles of "Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love" to difficult questions in church life, in this case the inclusion of gays and lesbians. We shared in small groups what pastors and congregations have done that has been helpful in opening up the conversation to acknowledge gays and lesbians among us. For me the process was safe, yielded honest and heartfelt expressions, respected differing views, acknowledged the humanity of us all and our need for learning and understanding. I felt God's Spirit moving among us as we worked with each other to apply the principles in "Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love". It felt like "following Jesus" bringing healing and hope to us.

– *Rosalind E. Andreas*

Our service project was picking up trash in the streets.



Dimitri and Hudson



Ted

Photos by Dave Beidler

We gathered for our annual meeting, after enjoying coffee and fellowship, at around 12:15 p.m. following the worship service on Sunday, July 19. Administrator Dave Beidler opened the meeting by thanking everyone for participating. It was expected to be an important meeting, as we faced some difficult budget decisions given the current economic situation. Here are the main highlights of the meeting (regular minutes will be in your mailboxes):

- ## Taftsville Mennonite Chapel 2009 Slate

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Summer 2009



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## Bethany Birches Camp

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### Worshipping together Sunday, July 12

Our congregation joined the Bethany Mennonite Church congregation and the staff of Bethany Birches Camp for our annual joint worship service and chicken BBQ. It was a beautiful, summer day to enjoy the fellowship, and worship our Lord as we looked out over the picturesque mountains and sing praises accompanied by The Bethany Birches Camp Band.



BBC Band Members left to right: Krista Lampe (Oompa), Andrea Reiley (Kai), Brandon Bergey (Big Tuna), Briana Eschleman (Charly), Kyle Huck (Captn), Ruth Ellen Dandurand (Ru), Brett Shipley (Smalls).

### Annual Bethany Birches Camp Benefit Auction Reminder

The date for this years benefit auction is fast approaching. The date is **September 26, 2009**, Preview 9am, Auction 10am. **Mark the date on your calendar now** and plan to join in on this fun day held at Quechee Gorge Village. Hopefully you have given some thought to what you could contribute to the success of this fundraiser. We will need about 150 quality items, value of at least \$25 to be auctioned off. It could be a handmade craft item, gift certificate, tickets to an event, theme basket, or some service you could provide. We are also seeking donations of merchandise or services from local businesses. Contact Allen Guntz, auction committee member, for questions or ideas on something you could contribute. Notify Allen as soon as you know what you are contributing as the 2009 list has been started.

*– Allen Guntz*



Photos by Bob Collins

## MY TALK WITH GOD

By Ruth Ann Glick

Printed in the Taftsville News Notes, August 1969

Alone, yet not alone I sat upon those cold bare rocks  
That overlooked the valley fair  
'Twas only I who sat there with my God  
And viewed a world of nature there below.

As we two sat and talked, with chirping birds above,  
He told me of the time so many years ago  
When with his hands he formed and shaped  
The earth, the seas, and all the heavens above.

He told me that he made it all, it only took six days;  
And then with satisfaction stopped and rested one whole day.  
But, who to care for all his things? So from the dust  
He formed a living soul, the Man.

And then he pointed to the valley far below, that broad, fair, green expanse  
The knee-high grass rippled by the cool refreshing breeze,  
The babbling brook rushing swiftly on  
O'er the well-rounded, sandy brown rocks. A perfect match!

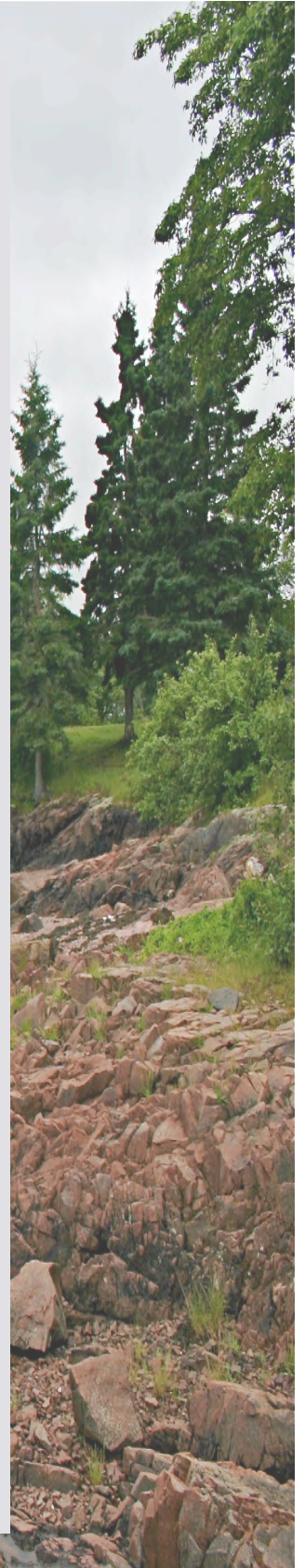
Again he pointed, to the heavens that time,  
And what I saw I'll ne'er forget. The sky, pale blue  
Was dotted with stocks of fleecy clouds that hid the sun itself,  
But still its brightness came shining through.

And through an opening in the clouds I saw  
Those beautiful rays of sunlight lightly streaming down;  
They reached from the heavens to the earth below  
It set my very heart aglow.

Then said God, "I want you to see by this heavenly scene,  
That when those trials and troubles assail you and hide the bright blue skies:  
If you will lay open your heart to me  
My love will come swiftly, streaming in and brighten all your gloom."

He also told me that he loves each person in the world,  
And yearns that all should know his true, obedient Son  
Who left his stately throne in heaven,  
To pay the costly price of death and shame upon the cruel cross.

And then I said, "Dear God, Thank you for showing me your love,  
Your great creative powers displayed. Thank you for showing me  
How small I really am and please take away my pride.  
Replace it Lord with Love for all Things Good and true."





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## Additions to Church Library

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### THE PRODIGAL GOD - Recovering the Heart of Christian Faith by Timothy Keller (author of The Reason For God)

"There was a man who had two sons..." Jesus originally addressed religious leaders with this parable, initiating love towards his enemies. In fact, this story creates a crisis for listeners today. Two self-salvation campaigns are exposed. Two sons rebel against their father and deserve rejection. Two spiritual paths to dealing with problems and finding happiness lead to dead ends. Two assumptions about relating to God are wrong.

Timothy Keller moves rapidly through this parable to hit us between the eyes, perhaps leaving a bruise of hard truth, perhaps knocking us conscious of "prodigal" as an adjective; our God "spends everything" and is "recklessly extravagant". This is a book to savor and to share.

### GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN - a Selection of Views and Values by Elmo Stoll

Thanks, Ted, for donating these columns from the "Family Life" magazine published by Old Order Amish. Included are brief stories, reminders, and encouragements in four categories: Values That Endure, Views That Challenge, Path of Discipleship, and Family Togetherness.

Monica Esch shares two remarkable DVDs as well:

### THE GODS AREN'T ANGRY and EVERYTHING IS SPIRITUAL by Rob Bell

Are these sermons? Are they lectures? Are we challenged and entertained? Yes. Rob Bell leads his audience through the history of sacrifice in The Gods Aren't Angry, explaining why people assumed the burden of winning and pleasing their gods to gain prosperity and peace of mind. We, of course, would never practice any form of "primitive" sacrifice today - right?

In Everything is Spiritual, Bell compares the reductionist view that what we can touch and see is all we will experience of life, with the believer's "eyes wide open to the mercies of God". He uses science to reveal an infinitely creative God seemingly hidden in plain sight. And what can we actually **do** with Bell's facts, illustrations, exhortations, affirmations, and conclusions? Worship and rejoice.

**PLEASE NOTE: Rob Bell's DVD entitled THE GODS AREN'T ANGRY disappeared immediately after it was put on the shelf - card and all. Please bring it back to the library and/or notify Librarian Lynda Knisley that you have it and will return it.**

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## A Poem - fitting for our summer

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*Ten years ago when Abner and I were living in London, we spent a week traveling around England with American friends who were visiting us. We encountered rain almost every day and in a little shop in Yorkshire I found a postcard with the poem that follows. We put the card in our glove box and every day we would take it out and read it aloud - by the end of the trip we all had it by memory. We included the postcard in the album amongst the photos of that trip, and a few days ago Abner and I decided it was time to dig it out again to commemorate the rainy summer of 2009. So here it is. Author unknown. - Virginia*

### RAIN

It rained and it rained and rained and rained  
The average fall was well maintained  
And when the tracks were simply bogs  
It started raining cats and dogs.

After a drought of half an hour  
We had a most refreshing shower  
And then the most curious thing of all  
A gentle rain began to fall.

Next day was also fairly dry  
Save for the deluge from the sky  
Which wetted the party to the skin  
And after that the rain set in.

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## European Travel Report

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Mary & I had a wonderful time on our recent trip to Germany, Switzerland and a corner of France. It was listed as a European Heritage Tour and it was like walking in the footsteps of our ancestors. Before we left we each filled out a ancestral chart going back 5 generations so the tour leaders knew what family names we all had for roots. Many stops were planned to visit towns they knew our ancestors came from.

Also we visited many known important Anabaptist sites. Those were sobering experiences as many were places of imprisonment, torture, and execution. One highlight was hiking in the Swiss hills through the cow pasture to the *Taufershöhle*, (Anabaptist Cave) for a memorable Sunday morning worship service. We ponder our freedom today as we worship unmolested in stark comparison to how the Anabaptists had to hike secretly to this cave.

In Zurich, the birthplace of Anabaptism, Peter Detweiler, a pastor in the Reformed Church, led us on a walking tour of the old city of Zurich. In recent years the Reformed Church is really trying to reconcile with the Amish/Mennonite community for all the persecution carried out in the 15 & 1600's. Peter took us to points of interest including Conrad Grebel's residence, Felix Manz's residence, Gossmunster-the principle church of Zurich, now Reformed. Also the Zwingli Statue, City Hall and the plaque along the Limmat River where Felix Manz and many other Anabaptists were drowned for their beliefs between 1527 and 1614. Hans Landis was the last martyr to be drowned in the Limmat River.

Another highlight was our visit to the hiding place at the Hunter Hutten farm in the Emmental Valley. Here we were served lunch in the 400 year old barn. In this barn there is a secret hiding place that was used for hiding Anabaptists. They also have set up a nice display of history and events in the life of this farm and the part it played in Anabaptist history. Regula Fankhauser gave us some history of the farm and how she became a Christian and an Anabaptist. She had a wonderful testimony.

We also had a perfect clear day to go up to Jungfrauoch, the top of Europe, in the Alps. Fantastic views were all around us up there.

This was truly a trip to remember and I'm still working on my photos (took over 2000) and hope to get some of them on a website before too long for viewing.

*Allen Guntz*



↑ On Menno Simons Street in Ibersheim, Germany

← Peter Detweiler tells us about this spot on the Limmat River in Zurich where many Anabaptists were drowned for their faith.

Photos by Allen





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## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

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*Do you remember when...*

### 40 YEARS AGO THIS SUMMER

*August 7, 1969*

These questions must be faced: Should a well be drilled; Should a new heating plant be installed; Should a master plan for complete renovation be made, or should we continue with our present building as it is.

### 35 YEARS AGO THIS SUMMER

*August 25, 1974*

The congregation accepted the transfer of membership to our congregation by Dennis and Marie Hackman.

*August 31, 1974*

Treasurer's annual report for the year:  
Operating expenses - \$1,880.25; Charitable gifts and donations - \$5,566.99

### 30 YEARS AGO THIS SUMMER

*July 12, 1979*

Our fellowship will be contributing approximately \$250 to the Mennonite Publishing House for the building now in progress. This will be paid at \$50 per quarter over the next year.

*July 18, 1979*

Joan Alderfer presented the schedule for the next two Wednesday evenings, when Host-Guest meetings will take place.

*August 26, 1979*

Morning service at Hartland Dam.  
Persons with Mennonite interests from Keene, Claremont and other areas will be invited.

### 25 YEARS AGO THIS SUMMER

*July 7, 1984*

Chicken BBQ at Bethany Birches Camp.  
Quarter chicken \$3.75; Half chicken \$4.75.

*August 5, 1984*

Noah Kolb's appointment as overseer was unanimously accepted by the group.

*August 12, 1984*

Sunday afternoon hike up Mr. Cardigan (pick wild blueberries) with picnic supper to follow.

*August 26, 1984*

We need more toys for the nursery. Donations welcome. LOST: a bucket of blocks.

### 15 YEARS AGO THIS SUMMER

*July 6, 1994*

At the annual meeting, it is decided to have the Church Service first and then break for 15 minutes to allow people to go pick up neighborhood children for the Sunday School period.

### 10 YEARS AGO THIS SUMMER

*July 16, 1999*

Allen presented the annual financial report. He noted that the bottom line of actual regular monthly offerings shows almost \$10,000 above the anticipated budgeted amount...Our new giving budget will reflect about a 40% increase over last year's budget.

*August 26, 1999*

The most recent update on the Kosovo refugee family is that there is no new information.

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## 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