

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

October 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*

A Call to Worship:

We come here, each of us, with different motivations; different fears; different joys. Different from each other, and also different within ourselves from week to week.

Sometimes we come out of habit or duty. It is a good habit to be sure; one to be continued, but sometimes, habitual things can lose their potency - their immediacy. We can slowly lose our authenticity with God and each other. We can slowly stop being expectant and alert for God. So, we need time and space to have our souls and spirits wake up, and show up, as well as our bodies.

Some of us come with a sense of what could be described as "guarded optimism." There is something just "off" inside, some worry or doubt or confusion or weariness that we trust will somehow be met and made better. A phrase in a song, a passage of living Word, the smile of a friend - somehow, God will move and we will be encouraged, gain insight, maybe find wisdom or perspective enough to keep going faithfully another week. So, we need time and space for our souls and spirits to listen for what we hope to hear.

Some of us come overflowing with joy and gratitude for how God has been seen as God this week, and we just want to worship. Something supernatural has happened inside and maybe even outside, and we enter with thanksgiving and praise. We believe that with God all things are possible, but this particular week our definition of "all things" has been wonderfully expanded. So, our souls and spirits need time and space for all that overflow to be expressed.

Some of us come so depleted, so helpless and seemingly hopeless that we wonder why we bother. The joy and expectation of others around us feels to be either phony or mocking. We've left empty and unmet so many times that it feels foolish to think that today would be any different. Our deep ache will persist, the words and songs will sound hollow, and our hearts will remain stuck in some pinched and lonely crevasse. We know that some kind of holy brokenness is needed, but God seems so far off, and our disappointment with Him, or ourselves, or others, is so close. So, our souls and our spirits need time and space to be embraced where they are. Not with pity, but with a fearless love that touches and acknowledges our suspicion that nothing will ever change.

So, all of our souls and our spirits need time and space. We need unhurried, but intentional arrival. This is our call to worship - no matter where we are starting from, we all of us need some time and

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Bob Collins & Allen Guntz



space to show up. Gather up your soul, gather up the story of your week, gather up your joy and your worry and your hope and your rage and show up before Him who only loves. This is our common ground, our holy ground, and we are here together. No matter how you came here today; we each need God's spirit to move among us and through us the same amount. No one needs less, or more, of Him than any one else.

With this in mind, how shall we worship? From where shall we worship? Most of all – settle this in your heart of hearts – it is Him we are worshipping – the Lord God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, with whom all things are possible. He has invited us with open arms to His throne of grace as if we belonged there all along.  
- Randy Good

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## Bits 'n Pieces



Photos by Heather Wolfe

### NICK AND HEATHER'S HOUSE WARMING

On Sunday September 13th, Nick and Heather welcomed Taftsville and Bethany Church to their new home. Forty-nine people came throughout the afternoon, enjoying food, fellowship, lawn games and a house tour. A few photos of the day have been included here. For anyone who was unable to come and or anyone who wants to come again, know that the doors are always open!

"It was very meaningful for us to share the joy of our new home with you, our church family. We wish to extend appreciation for the love and support we feel as members of Taftsville Chapel."

-Nick and Heather Wolfe

### FACEBOOK AND OUR YOUTH GROUP

The youth have moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and now have a presence on Facebook. This is a good way to see what's happening in the lives of our youth. Did you know that Ben is getting his Drivers Permit tomorrow? That Seth is trying to figure out what he should do in the future? That Hudson enjoys sailing and is building a boat? Become a fan of the Taftsville Chapel Youth Group and you too can learn these interesting facts. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/y92ffz4> to keep in touch with the youth.

### A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Dear Taftsville family,

It's been 27 days since my knee replacement surgery and I am amazed at the progress I am making! On this rainy Sunday, when I am unable to join you for worship, I praise God in my heart for the wonders of modern medical science that have made renewal like this possible. I give thanks, too, to all of you for your support in so many ways - prayers, first of all, and then the cards, visits, calls, e-mails, meals, and other expressions of love. Yesterday when I took my first outing to the Bethany Birches auction preview and walked around with my hiking poles, I was overwhelmed to be among friends again in a group setting, if only for a short while. I am still basically homebound until I visit my surgeon on October 7. Meanwhile, I have good daily care from nurse Abner and twice-weekly visits from an excellent physical therapist.

With gratitude, Virginia Schlabbach

## A WORD OF THANKS

Nancy Chase, Food Shelf coordinator, passes along thanks from the Upper Valley Haven. They are most grateful for our donations of food and other items. Taftsville Chapel's generosity and faithfulness to remember those less fortunate, right in our own neighborhood, continues to be a blessing. She also notes that they are in need of baby formula, baked beans, soup, rice side dishes, and Spaghetti O's.

## NEWS FROM SHELDON & MONICA

I wanted to send a quick hello and say that we miss you.

We're doing well overall. Sheldon's hearing that his job may well be extended after the year is up. I just accepted a part-time position at Hershey Medical Center. It's on their bone marrow transplant unit. Josiah's loving first grade and is making friends. It's great being able to walk him the three blocks to school. Owen misses him during the day. The boys have been playing really well together lately.

We're still tackling home projects to make the space feel more like our own. The house had lots of knob and tube wiring that we changed out and we've changed the heating system. But the removal of country wallpaper is the most satisfying.

We're narrowing our church search but it will be awhile until we feel settled. Again, we miss you.

Lots of love, *Monica*



Apple for sale at BBC Auction - Photo by Bob Collins

## A POEM FOR THE SEASON

### After Apple Picking

My long two-pointed ladder's sticking through a tree  
Toward heaven still.

And there's a barrel that I didn't fill  
Beside it, and there may be two or three  
Apples I didn't pick upon some bough.  
But I am done with apple-picking now.  
Essence of winter sleep is on the night,  
The scent of apples: I am drowsing off.

I cannot shake the shimmer from my sight  
I got from looking through a pane of glass  
I skimmed this morning from the water-trough,  
And held against the world of hoary grass.  
It melted, and I let it fall and break.

But I was well

Upon my way to sleep before it fell,  
And I could tell

What form my dreaming was about to take.

Magnified apples appear and reappear,  
Stem end and blossom end,  
And every fleck of russet showing clear.

My instep arch not only keeps the ache,  
It keeps the pressure of a ladder-round.

And I keep hearing from the cellar-bin  
That rumbling sound

Of load on load of apples coming in.

For I have had too much

Of apple-picking; I am overtired  
Of the great harvest I myself desired.

There were ten thousand thousand fruit to touch,  
Cherish in hand, lift down, and not let fall,  
For all

That struck the earth,

No matter if not bruised, or spiked with stubble,  
Went surely to the cider-apple heap  
As of no worth.

One can see what will trouble

This sleep of mine, whatever sleep it is.

Were he not gone,

The woodchuck could say whether it's like his  
Long sleep, as I describe its coming on,  
Or just some human sleep.

- Robert Lee Frost



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## The Seventh Annual Bethany Birches Benefit Auction

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Another successful benefit auction was held under cool, clear blue skies at Quechee Gorge Village on Saturday, September 26, 2009. It couldn't have been accomplished without so many people's gifts of time, money and auction items. A big thanks goes to Sandy Alderfer for making the auction fun and creating a joyful giving atmosphere. Sandy has participated since the beginning; from the first auction in the gym at Mid Vermont Christian School where the final tally was \$11,000 to this year's event at Quechee Gorge Village grounds where the net proceeds were \$19,500.00 (as of this printing). This included an anonymous donor giving matching funds up to \$5000.00 on certain auction items, apples generously donated by Jeff and Jane Rosenberger and half the proceeds of the baked goods table.



Every year the donated items outshine the previous years offerings. Generous donors gave of their time and talents; Marcia Bender with music lessons to Gerry Hawkes/Forest Savers with property work. Honey, Maple Syrup, Apples, local grass fed lamb, funny cakes, the "largest" shoo-fly pie and the traditional starting item of "Brandon's favorite peanut butter chocolate chip brownies" were some of the delicious offerings that were auctioned. Some of the popular items were a French Cuisine Dinner by Steve Moyer, Adirondack Chairs by Dave Beidler, a Woodstock Farmer's Market Gift Certificate, Quechee Golf for 4, and Killington Ski Area Lift Tickets. The 3 top sellers were: 200 gallons of fuel oil from Dead River Company for \$500, a child's wooden rocking horse by Brian Goshow for \$425 and 1 day of property work by Forest Savers (Gerry Hawkes) for \$325.



Many people stayed afterwards eating shoo-fly pie, reconnecting with people that made the trip from Pennsylvania to support the camp, and enjoying the emerging fall colors. Special thanks goes to Dale Snader for providing some warmth during the cold morning set-up that included temperatures in the 30's.

Past and present campers helped convey the items to the front of the tent where they were displayed for the bidders. The youth and their leaders of Taftsville also helped sell refreshments and received half the proceeds for future activities.



Bethany Birches Camp subsidizes the summer program each year by as much as \$50,000. This is done so that camp is accessible to anyone who wishes to attend regardless of income. The auction makes up nearly half of that subsidy. The money raised at this auction helps kids afford a great camp experience.



What a year we've had at Camp Hope. We served 120 children for three weeks and were blessed and able to feed each child every day. We saw fathers come to the camp to watch their children work. We were blessed with five teenagers who worked side by side with our ministry. We were able to pay them so they could attend school. The Lord blessed us with the chance to have Bible study with these teenagers and in return one of the young teenagers decided to start coming to church with us each Sunday. Every Sunday he showed up in his finest, with a smile and ready to go praise the Lord. The children did creative art, participated in Bible lessons, studied creation, sang for the Lord, played soccer, football, water balloon toss, scavenger

hunts, made piñatas, celebrated their forgotten birthdays, embraced friendship, and found joy in seeing that they could celebrate a day of being a child. This year we were so very blessed to have your support in this effort. We could not have done this ministry without the love, support, and prayers that you poured into our vision.

I want to share one of the sweetest moments with you. The day we handed out the Bibles was one of the most cherished days I will ever have in Haiti. As we handed them out I got chills looking at the children's eyes, so wide with wonder. Flipping each page, exploring the picture, capturing the colors and the words, and embracing their very first picture, colored, Creole textbook. The smiles beamed as they left with their Bibles clenched under their arms. Later I had parents pour thank yous, as you all not only blessed their children, but for some it was the very first Bible for the household. My thanks is not enough, it was truly a beautiful day as I saw the gospel leaving in the hands of those children. So many thanks for sharing the LOVE OF CHRIST with these children. I want to take the time to share another experience that the Lord has blessed upon the lives of Caitlin and me.



Our prayer last year was that the Lord would expand our borders and carry our ministry into the slum of Cite Soleil, Haiti. Cite Soleil is the largest slum in the Northern Hemisphere with a population of 300,000. It is a city within a city that holds thousands upon thousands of shanties that are surrounded by sewer and garbage. It is a place that has been forgotten because it has been claimed to be one of the poorest, roughest, and most dangerous areas of the Western Hemisphere. *The Washington Post* has stated that over 32 gangs heavily populate the streets with little or no police presence. Seven out of ten Haitians in this city survive on less than two dollars a day. It is a place where children run freely in the sewer and scrounge for days for food. Ninety percent of the children do not attend school.

Caitlin and I first learned of City Soleil when we spent the night in Port-au-Prince, Haiti a year ago, and we met Tammy Babcock, a humanitarian from Canada, at our hotel. Tammy came across this city in 2008 and it left her heart burdened. As she told us about Cite Soleil, our hearts were burdened as well. We knew we had to go. However, the next day we left without Tammy's information, without even her last name. For the past year, we prayed God would somehow reconnect us. As I searched the Internet for "Tammy" and "City Soleil" this past April, THERE SHE WAS!!! We immediately contacted her and asked her if we could serve her and the Cite Soleil community in some way.

Tammy Babcock has committed all her efforts to help advocate, fundraise, and support this city and its people. When Tammy travels there she brings medical treatments that meet the needs of hundreds of people. Recently the non-profit she started, Help Tammy Help Haiti, broke ground for the first water tower for the city. It was a day of laughter, joy, dancing, and rejoicing as some of these parents and children were seeing clean water for the first time.



Come November my sister Caitlin and I will be traveling to Cite Soleil to walk the streets with Tammy Babcock and serve the people with food, service, medical treatments, and above all else the love of Christ. Caitlin will be painting a mural with a couple of Haitian teenagers on the new water tower, and Leah will be embracing the children. I know this trip will not be easy but we have faith, knowing that the Lord is in control. If you would like to hear more about this trip please contact me at [leahbeidler12@yahoo.com](mailto:leahbeidler12@yahoo.com), or 802-299-6447. Thank you again for all your prayers and support! The children of Haiti send many thanks. Below is our blog for Camp Hope if you would like to see recent pictures from the camp.

- Leah Beidler

<http://www.camphopehaiti.blogspot.com/>

*From Lynda Knisely*

Here's evidence that a colorful poster can make a lasting impression on us. My art students enjoyed looking at a poster which reads "in heaven it is always Autumn". Nice image, we thought, but there must be more. We eventually found the entire poem by John Donne, which follows:



Photo by Bob Collins

**All times are his seasons**

God made sun and moon to distinguish seasons,  
 and day and night,  
 and we cannot have the fruits of the earth  
 but in their seasons;  
 but God hath made no decree to distinguish the seasons  
 of his mercies;  
 in paradise the fruits were ripe the first minute,  
 and **in heaven it is always autumn**,  
 his mercies are ever at their maturity.  
 God never says, you should have come yesterday;  
 he never says, you must come again tomorrow,  
 but today if you hear his voice,  
 today he will hear you.  
 He brought light out of darkness,  
 not out of lesser light;  
 he can bring thy summer out of winter,  
 though thou have no spring  
 All occasions invite his mercies,  
 and all times are his seasons.

- John Donne

## Schedule for October

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

### October

- 3 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast / *Dana’s*
- 3 R & RA Glick 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration / *Taftsville Chapel*
- 4 9:30 am - Ekklesia
- 10 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast / *Dana’s*
- 11 9:30 am – Haiti Update by Leah Beidler
- 14 Church Council Meeting
- 18 11:00 am – Annual Meeting II during 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour  
*Potluck fellowship meal to follow*
- 22 Pastoral Care Team Meeting
- 25 Leadership Team Meeting

**Second “Annual”  
 Congregational Meeting  
 to revisit  
 the church budget**

**Sunday, October 18  
 during the Second Hour**

Activities will be provided  
 for pre-school and  
 elementary children

Followed by  
 potluck fellowship meal

### Birthdays

#### October

- 11 Caren Swanson
- 15 Brian Alderfer
- 17 Bob Rosenberger
- 22 Dennis Hackman
- 28 Calvin McCrory
- 30 Janice Zook

### Anniversaries

#### October

- 3 Richard & Ruth Ann Glick
- 4 Jake & Amena Reess

### Childcare

#### October

- 4 Karen Cox
- 11 Mary Guntz
- 18 Hannah Cox
- 25 Carmeleta Beidler

### Song Leaders

#### October

- 4 Omar Zook
- 11 Janet North
- 18 Allison Good
- 25 Janice Zook

### Coffee

#### October

- 4 Mary Guntz
- 11 Nancy Pejouhy
- 18 Karen Cox
- 25 R & RA Glick

### Cleaning

#### October

- 3 Aloisio
- 10 Beidler
- 17 Beidler
- 24 Chaulker
- 31 Chaulker

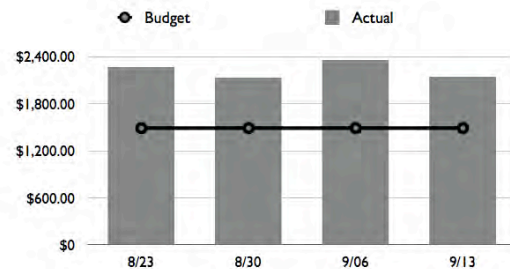
## Treasurer’s Report

We’re continuing to do very well! While expenses were again a bit more than budgeted, our offerings have also continued to be higher. We’ll have a lot to discuss at our (second) annual meeting, hopefully this time with some much better news! - *Tim Good*

### Taftsville Tally

| August                       | Attendance | Offering       |
|------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 23-----                      | 39-----    | \$2,270.00     |
| 30-----                      | ? -----    | 2,135.00       |
| <b>September</b>             |            |                |
| 6-----                       | 61-----    | \$2,360.00     |
| 13-----                      | 52-----    | \$2,145.00     |
| <hr/>                        |            |                |
| <b>Totals for 8/23-9/13:</b> |            |                |
| Budgeted Offerings -         |            | \$5,961.51     |
| Actual Offerings ----        |            | \$8,910.00     |
| <b>Weekly Budget is</b>      |            | <b>\$1,490</b> |

## Weekly Offering



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## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

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*Do you remember when...*

### 40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*October 4, 1969*

The Heating Committee is authorized to pay whatever is necessary for the blueprints and to get the show on the road as quickly as possible.

### 35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*October 6, 1974*

Mr. Watson agreed to give us space to place a Taftsville Chapel sign. John Lutz and Malcolm Congdon will work on the sign materials and lettering.

*October 6, 1974*

Something to think about and give your opinion -- How about a Community Christmas Supper on the night of the Christmas program?

### 30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*October 3, 1979*

Congratulations to Richard and Ruth Ann Glick, celebrating 20 years of marriage.

*October 9, 1979*

It is suggested that the nursery be checked for necessary changes, including fixing of the crib.

### 20 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*October 1, 1989*

Encouragement from Marty's Musings: "Dear brothers and sisters, God has hope and a future for us, in spite of what it may feel like at the moment. Many of us legitimately feel pain, hurt, anger, even despair. Hope is hard to come by and solutions seem nonexistent. May we stand in solidarity with one another. Let us go forward with expectation."

### 15 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*October 20, 1994*

Council approved a letter that Marty wrote to send to inactive church members. Nearly 1/3 of our membership is inactive, and it seems appropriate to explore with these members their status.

### 10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*October 3, 1999*

There is a Mennonite Your Way Tour coming to New England. This group (of about 30) will be worshipping with us on Sunday. It will be cozy, but we welcome them both for Sunday Service and for fellowship and coffee downstairs.

*October 27, 1999*

The Hospitality Committee and the Pastoral Care Team asked the council to consider ways for our group to interact together in some informal, fun settings. They have a list of ideas but would welcome other ideas from the group.

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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**

<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