

# 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*

April 2010

"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*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Unbelievable.....	1
Testimonies.....	1
God's Hand in Rough Times...	1
Lenten Reflections .....	2
MCC.....	2
March Attendance .....	2
Putting up a sign .....	2
Church Family.....	3
Tim and Allison .....	3
Roy and Dottie .....	3
Bob and Amelia .....	3
Far-Away Friends.....	4
OH - Beck .....	4
PA - Esch.....	4
NC - Reess.....	4
Beyond New England's Borders..	5
Learning Love Ukraine .....	5
A Truck by Any Other Name..	6
April Schedules.....	7
Treasurer's Report.....	7
In the Library .....	8
Tidbit Trivia.....	8



*Amazing display of sharing  
See page 3*

## Unbelievable

Some of the recent developments in modern medicine border on "unbelievable." A friend recently had a total hip replacement, and walked out of the hospital - with help - two days later. Within a few weeks, he was back to work. Unbelievable. From antibiotics to insulin, and statins to synthetic thyroid hormones, we are sustaining and prolonging life in amazing ways.

Yet, constant exposure to "miracle" medicine has still not made the word "unbelievable" one we can safely retire from the dictionary. We can see these things with our own eyes, but even then we marvel. Unbelievable.

All our admirable scientific progress and sophistication have not made the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ even close to "believable". Even with the miraculous cures available to us, the idea of a corpse in a tomb being raised back to warm-blooded life defies our senses. We have to employ the same dynamic as did the scientifically challenged first century church in order to come close to the reality of Easter: Faith in what appears unbelievable. Back then, there were eyewitnesses who told others, but even for them, seeing wasn't believing. It was still unbelievable, except by faith.

But that's the nature of the Lord we love, and the way He told us it would have to be. He is only knowable by faith, but He is knowable indeed. "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" the angel asked the women. "He is not here. He has risen just as He said." Unbelievable. Even as He appeared to His disciples and invited them to touch Him and give Him some food to eat, they still "disbelieved for joy." But appear He did and showed Himself to be alive to many. They had no explanation and, in our advanced day, neither do we. But, by faith, we believe just the same - and we say, "Hallelujah! He is Risen indeed." Easter is the time that, in believing by faith, we rejoice in the wonder of it all.

*-Randy Good*

## Testimonies

### Experiencing God's Hand in Rough Times

A few weeks ago I took off and headed south to build a spec home near Charlottesville Virginia...in a beautiful location near a ski resort very similar to Vermont - except they had way more snow than we did this winter! We arrived late in the week and were able to get in a good day putting up posts and girders before it started to pour for the next two-three days, and then we hit the ground running for the new week and got a lot done in the next three days. On Thursday night, March 18th, Ryan (a wonderful young man who travels with me on jobs and who has worked for me for about three years) called me in tears and told

me that his closest boyhood friends in Connecticut had been involved in a terrible motorcycle accident, leaving one dead and the other seriously injured. An older man had been over the yellow line and hit both of them coming in the opposite direction. Ryan was devastated and – while not a believer – is open to the Gospel and hungry for God's love, as we all are. I read him some Psalms and we wept together for a while the next morning. A little while later while walking across the floor joists, I slipped and fell into the floor system, badly bruising my thigh and some ribs on my back to the point where I could hardly move or breathe without intense pain. It was a rough few days.

Ryan and I had a good weekend visiting a former client, with whom we both have a close friendship, on the Northern Neck/Chesapeake area of Virginia and enjoyed his company and the building we built for him a few years ago in Kilmarnock. A while later Ryan read me a letter he had written to the family of his deceased friend, which was one of the most moving experiences I can remember. His heart was wide open and vulnerable, and we spent the rest of the hour just weeping together.

I realize that in the midst of travel and work, life goes on and it is the relationships we treasure and nurture that ultimately allow us to be known and to reflect Christ and to serve God. It does not matter where we are or even what we are doing, but how we interact and care for others that sets the tone for all the rest of the details of our lives. God pretty much stays away from telling us what to do and not to do with our lives, but seems passionately concerned about how we do what we do. It was a very hard week, but Ryan and I both found ourselves seeking greater closeness to God during this turbulent time.

I loved the Palm Sunday service today. God knows we ache for Him and its okay – it is an ache he wants to deeply satisfy. – *George Abetti*

**MCC reports recent shipments to Haiti totaling:** 6,910 relief kits; 11,729 comforters; 2,635 sheets; 1,898 tarps; and 153,000 pounds of canned meat. The Mennonite Central Committee Material Resource Center of Harleysville, PA continues to be a collection point for relief efforts. The Harleysville Center thanks God for the new space which helps us to be much more productive and efficient. Thanks to all for your help and support. Your kind donations are always welcome!

## Lenten Reflections\*

I have used the Lenten booklet each morning for my devotions. I have been blessed by the Scripture reading and the meditations by many of my sisters and brothers. I think of the fact that many of you are reading the same things as I am each day. In thinking again of the Questions for Reflection, I was thinking how meaningful it would be if we could share some of the thoughts each of you have come up with on these questions.

The draped cross in our sanctuary reminds me of another time when we nailed our sins on that cross and on Easter morning the word FORGIVEN appeared on the cross. This was very moving and meaningful to me. And now as I think of things I need to let go of at the cross and things I need to hold on to at the cross, it is sobering and at the same time freeing. I feel I have so far to go yet in my relationship with the Lord.

Thanks to all of you who are encouraging me and traveling with me on our journey to heaven.

In Him, *Richard Glick*

***\*We are still observing Lent and Holy Week as this issue goes to press. You are invited to join Richard in writing your reflections on Lent and Easter for the next issue of the Current.***

*Here are a few ideas to nudge your thinking:*

- How did you use and respond to the booklet of Lenten meditations?
- If you attended the Taize services, how were they helpful?
- How did the worship themes speak to you?
- What was meaningful to you in the use of the cross and nailing notes to it?
- In what ways did the cross walk or Easter breakfast fellowship or Easter worship service affect your sense of the joy and power of Christ's resurrection?

### Church Attendance Record

March	7-----	43
	14-----	45
	21-----	40
	28-----	54



---

## Sharing in the Lives of our Church Family

---



**Tim and Allison Good will celebrate their first anniversary on April 18.** This wedding quilt, made especially for them by the women of Taftsville Chapel, was presented on March 28. Congratulations, Tim and Ali!



**Roy and Dottie Aloisio were married on December 6.** Roy says, "We have eight children between us, eight grand children, and one great grand child. I work as the Home Repair program director for SEVCA, and Dottie has retired from the Prosthetics Department at the VA Hospital. Our hope when I retire is to do volunteer work in some of the poverty sections of this country." **Congratulations, Roy and Dottie!**

### Cormier's Deck Construction on February 4



Builders present were Randy, Dave, Richard, Allen, and Bob.

It was cold and windy, but we got the frame finished just as we ran out of propane on the lift. The time and energy spent at the new house was an amazing display of sharing. I'd still be working on it if Dale hadn't made the call. **Check out the amazing view from the last storm! (Front Page)** Lunch and coffee was provided by Amelia. Thanks to all of you. - *Bob Cormier*

---

## Catching Up With Far-Away Friends

---

**Greetings from Ohio:** March 22 - We wanted to say hello and to let you know of two Ohio-Taftsville connections we have recently heard of. 1) There is a couple from our small group at Zion Mennonite who will be volunteering this summer at Bethany Birches Camp. Their daughter lives in Massachusetts so they enjoy visiting New England during the summer. Their names are Doug and Ruth Meyer and we have encouraged them to visit Taftsville Chapel when out that way. They will be at camp the same week in July that Denver will be a camper. 2) I received a text today from my brother Kent, who lives in Maryland. Kent and his wife moved there from Goshen about the same time we moved to Ohio. He works at a boarding school and this week took three international students to Harrisonburg, Virginia, and toured Eastern Mennonite University. Their campus tour guide was Taftsville Chapel's own Laura Beidler! We all enjoyed the connections with these two stories so wanted to share with you. We are all looking forward to our annual summer trip to Vermont in July! Think Spring and take care! - *Kerry, MaryBeth, Mara, Mim, and Denver Beck*

**Greetings from Pennsylvania:** March 24 - Josiah got his casts on January 25th, a couple of days after his seventh birthday, and just got out of them two weeks ago. He did great throughout the weeks with them on, though the two weeks in the middle when he had casts above his knees was the hardest on us, as he needed to be carried almost everywhere. He became pretty adept with his wheelchair and enjoyed the extra attention he got at school! The other casts he had were "walking casts" and he said he actually liked having them on (I'm guessing because he didn't have to think about putting braces on and off). He had four different sets of casts put on and had fun choosing different colors for each. And he was even able to get out some in the big snows that we had this winter.

The first week out of his casts was a long one as he lost a lot of strength and couldn't walk on his own, even with his braces, for the first few days. But he's come around well in the last couple of days and we're confident he'll be doing fine very soon. He's not yet walking the three blocks to school because it's still feels too far, so Monica's taking him in the wheelchair. However, he's gaining strength every day and is now able to walk up the stairs by himself without his braces on, which is a huge improvement. So things are moving along pretty well and Monica and I are anticipating a much easier spring. We were both marveling last Saturday how we were able to start plants and do outside "spring cleanup" around the yard and it was only mid-March! I was glad for the big snows we had this winter, but I'm really enjoying our early spring! We miss you all at Taftsville and are contemplating a long weekend trip up before too long but haven't made any solid plans yet. - *Sheldon, Monica, Josiah, and Owen Esch*



**Greetings from North Carolina:** March 24 - A bit of an update for me... I've been attending the Asheville Mennonite Church (AMC) in Asheville. It's about a 45-minute drive, passing many, many churches on the way. While it cannot compare to my FIRST Mennonite experience, it is my new church home. As Jake and I moved down this way, I asked God where he wanted to use me next. Going to this church is part of being His servant. The congregation is dealing with some very old negative interactions amongst themselves involving a very challenging member. I offered to lend my mental health expertise as I picked up on the tension on my first visit. Sanford, the pastor, responded by telling me, "I've been praying for you." (!) The short story is that I've been able to lend my boundary knowledge and communication expertise to the situation and there is at least, I believe, more understanding from which to work.

On another note, still seeking God's guidance on how I could serve Him, I had the opportunity to learn about Christian Life Coaching. In the months leading up to our move, and the few months after, I kept falling into situations where the phrase and topic would be presented! The ways that wording crossed my path were numerous and not coincidental! God was at work here! I SO appreciate how easy the flow is when I listen to His



word! Since then, I have entered a 60-credit training program for Christian Life Coaching through the American Association of Christian Counselors. I have secured funding (thank you Mr. Obama!) to start up a new business venture as a professional master life coach by the end of my training. It's been delicious to be part of such a journey!

Spring is springing. My daffodils are up. And my hosta is following closely. Jake and I were able to ride the bikes every month since we've been down here, the last on Saturday for about six hours. He's starting to build his woodworking shop using half of the shuffleboard court as his floor. Yes, we nabbed the "old folks" house with the official, real shuffleboard court in the back yard! What a hoot! Life is good! And God is guiding so clearly! - *Amena Reess*

---

## Beyond New England's Borders

---

*Nancy Iott reflects on her two years in the Ukraine. She plans to return there for the summer.*

*Ted Shattuck tells truck stories from Tucson, Arizona, where he and Elinor served as volunteer electricians this winter.*

### Learning to Love Ukraine

My Peace Corps boot camp in Northern Ukraine, not far from Belarus, was not quite Siberia, but might as well have been. It was already dark and cold in October and we had no maps, no language skills, strange unappealing food, and unfriendly people. By Christmas, I was assigned to a better city 2 hours west of Kiev. I now had a map, a feeble ability to speak Russian, better food and friendlier people. Best of all, I seemingly had a purpose: to teach 4<sup>th</sup> year students at Zhytomyr Philological Institute, which trained prospective English teachers and translators. What I didn't have was a sense that what I was doing really mattered. Students were nice enough, but few were motivated. Colleagues were nice enough, but apathetic and resistant to new ideas. Ukraine is a scarred country; a trampled borderland with a cruel history; people are tired. The government is corrupt. Goods are counterfeit. Cheating is rampant. There is little trust and little hope that things will get better. Apathy is easy to understand. I saw a sign once over a blighted area that read, "What happened here? Answer: Independence!" When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Ukraine was not ready to govern itself and 20 years later, even with great strides in commercial development and booming construction in the larger cities, it is still trying to figure things out.

So, I would ask God daily what I was doing there. I was often sad and lonely. In the beginning, I would just make it a goal to go out and make three people smile. Or hold the door open for people – not a common custom. Or pick up trash. Little things. Then I happened to meet a young man named Alex who was the local director for an organization called Samaritan Ministries in Ukraine. The organization, based in Portland, Oregon, had just finished putting up the shell of a big house, which would become a community center/widows' home in a nearby village. I asked if I might help. Long story short – over the course of the next two years, I would paint 23 rooms, help buy supplies and furnishings, clean, pull weeds, coordinate summer camps, minister to widows and orphans and make so many good relationships, I would be sad to leave.

The threefold Goal of the Peace Corps is to demonstrate the best of our culture to other countries, to bring knowledge of other cultures back to America, and to help to train people in developing countries to achieve career goals. God's Goal was to change me, to change my perspectives about the world, and to show me that working without pay for the good of others is the best work there is. – *Nancy Iott*



Left: Typical widow's house  
Right: New widows' house

## A Truck by Any Other Name

We have completed our last full week working with CHRPA\*. (It's pronounced "chirpa" here.) Almost all the winter volunteers have gone, and the only other winter CHRPA volunteer will be leaving for home in Goshen, Indiana, on Wednesday. That will leave five staff people (including the director) and three long-term volunteers. Unlike many of the volunteers, we don't manage to get to many of the tourist attractions while we are here, so as our departure time nears we are trying to do a few of those things. Today we took "Tommy" and drove to Madera Canyon, about 30 miles south of Tucson. It is said to be a "must see" place for birders, and is a great place for hiking. The elevation where we hiked rises to over 5900 feet. We didn't see many birds but hiked about four-five miles and saw snow (yes, in Arizona) and some beautiful views of the valley. I also worked at my second job as a part-time billboard. (I haven't sent out my bill yet, Dale.)



"Tommy" by the way is the name of the boss's truck. Rather than numbers, all the CHRPA trucks have names. A volunteer named Tom who is a farmer from Illinois donated one of his farm trucks to CHRPA, but it wasn't adaptable for CHRPA work, so they traded it in and got a small Nissan pickup. It became "Tommy". Tommy has no power steering (it's broken) and when you turn the wheel hard the horn sometimes beeps until you bang on the steering wheel a few times. The door handle doesn't work either, so I have to roll the window down and reach out to open the door. At least Tommy has air conditioning. When we first took Tommy out this year I couldn't get up to the speed limit on the interstate unless we were going downhill. We bought new spark plugs and he can keep up with the traffic now. Most of the CHRPA trucks are

donations from Tucson Electric Power (TEP), the local electric utility, and Southwest Gas. Every truck has well over 100,000 miles, and is "bare bones". Not all have air conditioning, even though the temperatures here in the summer get well into the hundred plus range. The truck that Elinor and I drive was donated by TEP, has 129K and the volunteers thought it looked like a Conestoga wagon, so she is called "Connie". The biggest, heaviest truck is a 3/4-ton Ford from Southwest Gas and so was named "Brutus". When our truck was stolen two years ago, a Mennonite electric company from Ohio heard about the need and donated one of their vans (a local Sunday school class donated the travel expenses, and two of their members drove it out here to Tucson). Since it had been an electric service truck, it became "Sparky". There are also Yvonne, Frosty (a van donated by TEP which had clouded frosty glass in the windshield) and Moby, which is a big white pickup. As often as possible the volunteers do all the service on the trucks. CHRPA works hard to see that its funding goes to helping clients, and even the director rides a bicycle to work most of the time – especially when we want to borrow his truck.

Naturally, having a fleet of older trucks means that there will be an occasional breakdown. On Wednesday after a day's work we were returning to the shop and drove for 10 plus miles on Interstate 10 at 65 mph in and out of the passing lane. The traffic was quite heavy because it was the afternoon rush hour (why do they call it "rush hour" when traffic is generally slower?). Shortly after getting off the interstate and onto the city street, there was a big BOOM, and we had the loudest blowout that I have ever heard. We were in the right lane, and doing barely 20 mph, so I was able to limp to the side of the road and into a parking lot. We changed the tire there, and then on Friday we took Connie to the tire store for a brand new tire. Unfortunately when the tread separated it slapped against the fill pipe for the gas tank and tore it right out of the side of the truck! One extra spark and there might have been a much louder boom! That was one of those events where you later reflect on what might have been, and thank the Lord for his watchful care. Fortunately there was enough gas in the tank to get us to our jobs on Thursday, and then Friday afternoon I repaired the fill pipe.

We're hoping to have a better driving experience with our "land yacht" on the trip home. Thanks for your prayers as we have worked here, and please keep us in your prayers as we travel. – *Ted Shattuck*

\* CHRPA stands for **Community Home Repair Projects of Arizona**.

---

## Schedule for April

---

**Each Sunday morning: 9:30 am – Worship Service**  
**10:45 am – Coffee and Fellowship**  
**11:00 am – Second Hour/Sunday School (not on Easter)**

### April

- 2** 7:00 pm – Good Friday Service
- 3** 7:00 am – Men's Breakfast @ *Crossroads Café*
- 4** **Easter – Resurrection Day**  
7:00 am – Cross Walk  
8:00 am – Breakfast  
9:30 am – Easter Service
- 8** 7:00 pm – Church Council
- 10** 7:30 am – Women's Breakfast @ *Mt. Creamery*
- 17** 7:00 pm – Pastoral Care Team Meeting
- 25** 9:30 am – Ekklesia

---

### Birthdays in April

5	Ann Chalker	23	Melissa Ayers
20	Mabel McCrory	25	Ted Shattuck
22	Homer Welch	25	Gavin Eisenburg

---

### Anniversaries in April

4	Dave & Carmeleta Beidler
14	Bob & Jan Collins
19	Skip & Ann Chalker
25	Ted & Elinor Shattuck

---

### Song Leader

April
4 Allison Good
11 Omar Zook
18 Carmeleta Beidler
25 Janice Zook

---

### Childcare

April
4 Karen Cox
11 Mary Guntz
18 Judy/Mike McCrory
25 Janet North

---

### Coffee

April
4 Ken & Jane Glick
11 Janet North
18 Mary Guntz
25 Nancy Pejouhy

---

### Cleaning

April
4 North/Schlabach
11 North/Schlabach
18 Pejouhy
25 Pejouhy

---

## Treasurer's Report

---

For the last few weeks, our offerings are still averaging out to meet the budget. Praise God!

We have also received some special offerings towards the "New Roof Fund," so we have a great start there. Thank you!

-Tim Good

Weekly Budget: \$1,695

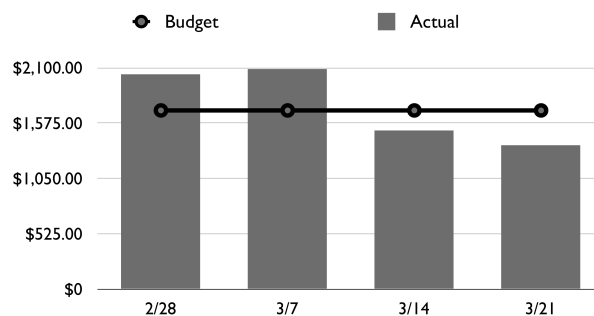
Feb. 28 - \$2,038

Mar. 7 - \$2,088

Mar. 14 - \$1,505

Mar. 21 - \$1,365

## Weekly Offering



---

## In the Library

---



**The DVD entitled “A Glimpse into the Life of Homer Welch at the age of 91”** is available in our library. It's a musical, colorful and detailed interview with the help of Richard, Ruth Ann, and Virginia, produced by Allen behind the camera. Homer will be 92 on April 22.

### **New Book - *FEARLESS* By Max Lucado**

Low key, a “quick read” and a gut-puncher of real issues with Scriptural guides revealing God's authority in daunting situations. *Fearless* is all of the above, with over 30 pages of compelling questions to help readers mine the text for personal answers.

Topics in *Fearless* include “Fear of Not Mattering”, “Fear of Disappointing God” and “Fear of Overwhelming Challenges”. Published in 2009, the book's topics such as violence, money, and global calamity are especially familiar today. Readers can absorb these chapters in sequence or can select topics in any order without disturbing the whole. However, *Fearless* concludes with the Gospel account of Christ's Transfiguration. Lucado states that “fear of the Lord” is truly sane and that God makes Himself known in multiple ways so we may avoid crippling fear of temporal things,

Thanks so much to Janice Zook for recommending *Fearless* for our library. - *Lynda Knisley*

---

## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

---

### *Do you remember when...*

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

*April 4, 1970*

A special meeting was called to consider the matter of drilling a well. Lloyd Moyer offered to drill us a well at considerably less than the regular rate. It was voted to accept his offer.

*April 25, 1970*

A Candlelighter's bake sale will be held at Rich's Department store. All kinds of baked goods are needed. No other Candlelighter's meeting is planned for this month, so plan to spend a day baking!

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

*April 4, 1975*

Paul Erb, temporary pastor at Bethany, is the speaker for the Vermont Churches Workshop. Taftsville will provide the evening meal.

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

*April 1, 1980*

An Easter Music Program is scheduled for the Brookside Nursing Home, Hanover Terrace, the Homestead, and the Mt. Ascutney Hospital.

#### **25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

*April 9, 1985*

Candlelighters had several weekly meetings at the church to quilt on 2 wall hangings we pieced for the church basement. Exercise class has stopped meeting weekly.

#### **20 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

*April 30, 1990*

Some disbursements for the month of April needed to be postponed, but generally, the financial picture is improving.

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

*April 20, 1995*

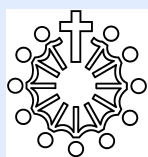
Church Council liked Ruth's suggestion to have our outdoor service at church this summer, followed by a potluck picnic. This would take the place of the annual Hartland Dam service.

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

*April 16, 2000*

Palm Sunday – the Youth will be presenting “The Ragman”

### **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 the Collins mailbox

OR contact a Newsletter Staff Member:

Carie Good, Janet North, and Virginia Schlabach