

# 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*

June 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*

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Dale Snader the "good shepherd"

## Two Kingdoms and the VTrans Sign

It's time for some theology, Church! OK, stop yawning! Theology gets a bad rap as being the domain of multi-degreed mega-brains as they argue, in painful detail, theoretical points that we commoners don't understand or think important. But I think most of us know that what we think and believe matters on a whole lot of levels.

Over the next while in our Sunday morning messages, we're going to be exploring "the two kingdoms." The two of them that are talked about in the New Testament are the "Kingdom of this World" and the "Kingdom of God" (or Kingdom of Heaven if you're reading Matthew). As various Anabaptist groups evolved out of the Reformation, the theology of the two kingdoms began to regain for them the importance that it had lost in the context of European Christendom, in which church and state were two wings of one system.

Exploring the two kingdoms has been a passion of mine for the past dozen years or so. What we think and believe about the two kingdoms affects a few things. The list might start with what we think about God, who Jesus is, what the Holy Spirit is doing in the world, what power and authority are, how the atonement worked, what God's love is like and how it works, what God cares about in the world, what our "mission" is, what Christian community is, how we deal with conflict, how we engage politically, what family is, our priorities, our allegiances, etc. etc. In short, it affects everything.

The two kingdom emphasis was resurrected by the Anabaptists, but was originally important to some folks like Jesus and Paul. Since this piece of theology is so central to how we think and believe, live and engage, talking about it directly can lead to disagreements. As free disciples of a free Jesus, we need to be aware of this but not scared of it. In my preaching role, I will try to discern the most unifying way to present it. Talking about this subject together is, first and foremost, an opportunity and a call to live out the kingdom of God together. It is a call to trust one another even as we talk turkey about important things.

A robust notion of two-kingdom theology is one of the things that drew Caren and me to Anabaptism in the first place. If it weren't for the two kingdoms, we might not be traveling an hour to church. Well, if it weren't for the two kingdoms and that VTrans directional sign on Route 4!

- Dave Swanson, Interim Pastor

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## New Editor for the Taftsville Chapel Current

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In January of 2004, I received the "go ahead" from the Church Council to start this newsletter. I stated then that "I wanted to contribute to the continued spiritual growth of Taftsville Chapel by 'better connecting us to each other' through a monthly newsletter." More than 6 years have gone by, and due to a heavy work load in my job and other responsibilities, I have decided to step down as editor. I have enjoyed putting this together each month, but know that it is the right time for someone else to use his or her creativity to continue this service. I want to thank all of you who have supported me as editor with your contributions. I especially thank Carie, Virginia and Janet, who volunteered this past year to help organize the newsletter. I am delighted to announce that the new editor of The Current, starting with the next issue (July/August), will be Caren Swanson. Caren very enthusiastically accepted this role upon my first mentioning it to her. This was the affirmation that I needed to pass the baton. Join me in supporting Caren in her new role as editor, and as she and I work on this transition. This is your newsletter, so keep the current flowing.

Jan Collins, Outgoing Editor

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## Church Life

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### Announcements

**Annual congregational meeting, Sunday June 27,** during the second hour, will be followed by a potluck picnic lunch.

**Candlelighters' summer project:**

The October Candlelighters' project will be to piece a quilt top to send to Mennonite Central Committee. Volunteers will quilt it to sell at the Pennsylvania MCC Relief Sale. Meanwhile, the suggested summer project for those who like to cut fabric squares is as follows: Cut 5-inch squares from good quality 100 % cotton fabric and bring them to church by October 1. That's it!

**Groton camping weekend:**

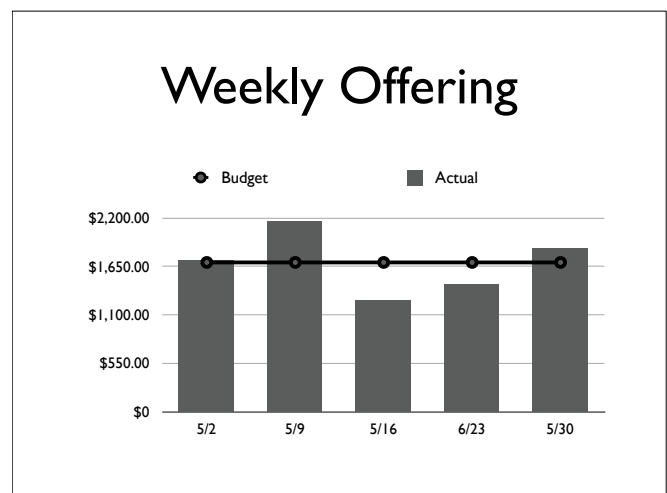
This year there are 11 church families signed up for the annual church camping weekend at Groton State Park. Some arrive on Thurs. Aug. 12th and some on Friday. Some families set up in lean-tos and some in tents or campers. Most of us are on or near the waterfront. One of the special aspects of this event is that we are literally neighbors. If you would like to inquire about this weekend of camping, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, hiking and visiting, please see Ruth Ann Glick. When we made reservations last Sept. we needed to reserve for four nights. At this point the minimum reservation is two nights.

**Attendance Record**

<b>May</b>	2	53
	9	54
	16	51
	23	52
	30	50

### Treasurer's Report

For the month of May, we averaged out to almost exactly our budgeted weekly offering! As this fiscal year is drawing to a close, we've been able to meet all of our expenses, both expected and unexpected, and we've been able to give very generously to many in need. Praise God and thanks to you all for your continuing generosity! -Tim Good



**Weekly Budget: \$1695**

**Offerings:**

5/2 - \$1,725  
5/9 - \$2,164  
5/16 - \$1,268  
5/23 - \$1,445  
5/30 - \$1,855

**Total - \$8,457**

## Class Experiences the Life of Jesus Hands-on

Sunday school took on a new dimension for Calvin McCrory and Micah Schlabach this quarter as they discovered first-hand what life was like when Jesus lived on earth. They learned carpentry from Randy Good, who set up a carpenter's shop with hand tools and showed them how to make a new leg for a broken milking stool. They made Middle Eastern foods with Virginia Schlabach and invited their dads to share the feast. They "traveled" to Israel with Abner Schlabach, who showed slides and artifacts from his trip to Israel on a cattle boat when he was a teenager. And the familiar story of Jesus the Good Shepherd was enhanced by the May 23<sup>rd</sup> outing to the Duplessis sheep farm.



Using carpentry tools like Joseph and Jesus may have used

## Students and Teachers at Work and Play

**Dandurand: Ruth Ellen** graduated on May 2 with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts. This summer she is working at Pirouette Farm, a horse farm in Norwich, and doing gardening for the Bradleys, neighbors up the road. She hopes to do some type of service work starting next spring. **Seth** will graduate from Hartford High School on June 18. He will work at Bethany Birches Camp again this summer and attend the Boy Scout 100th anniversary national jamboree in Virginia. His fall plans are still uncertain as he explores various options. **Victoria** will be going to Bethany Birches and enjoying white water rafting.

**Cox** (reported by Karen): In June **Hunter** will be on "summer staff" (college age volunteer) on the waterfront at Young Life's camp on Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks. After working at Dana's in July and August, he will transfer to the Annapolis campus of St John's college so that he can be a little closer to home next year... and closer to Haylie! **Hudson** is on the wait list to be on "work crew" (high school volunteer) at Young Life's camp in Malibu, British Colombia. If he's accepted we'll have to get him there so I'm not sure how to pray! If not away, Hudson will be working at Dana's too. He's also going to "Boy's State" June 20-25. **Hudson and Hayden** will be going to Young Life Camp (Saranac Lake) with the Upper Valley YL group in July for a one-week trip. Hayden will be mowing our neighbor's lawn and waiting for soccer to start. We hope he joins Hannah on the swim team! **Hannah** will be going to Bethany Birches June 27- July 2. We're hoping some of her school friends join her, as the BBC info night was a great success! She will also be swimming this summer on the Woodstock team. **Haylie** will be home in July for a family visit and then again with her house mates in August. The rest of the summer she will be working in Arlington at an Apple Store.

**Russell and Nancy Pejouhy** will both be volunteering at Bethany Birches Camp this summer. Nancy will be the Camp Shepherd for a week in July while Russell is volunteering in the kitchen.

## One teacher's summer agenda:

Process school thoughts later.  
Plan amazing new curriculum - also later.  
Leave "deep clean" of classroom for much later.  
Scan, but do not actually buy, art books at Borders.  
Read. Camp. Read and camp at the same time.  
Attend anything put together by Bread and Puppet.  
Bond with sister and relatives in the North East Kingdom.  
Address various art projects previously set aside until "later".

- Lynda Knisley



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## Getting to Know You: Ted and Elinor Shattuck

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Where did you grow up? Share a bit about your family, local environment, school, church - whatever might have shaped who you've become as an adult.

**Elinor:** I grew up in Holmes County, Ohio, which has a large Mennonite and Amish population. I grew up in the country, although not on a farm. My father was a teacher and later an elementary school principal. In fact, he became the principal the year that I started first grade. Our family attended a large Mennonite Church until I was eight years old; then we attended a small mission church for ten years. Maybe that is why I prefer a small congregation. As a child I spent lots of time outdoors and went barefooted most of the summer. I loved riding bike, tromping around in the woods and playing in the creek. I have two older brothers (five and six years older than I am). They were pretty good about dragging me along but I also played by myself a lot of the time.

**Ted:** I spent the first 20+ years living in Brockton, Massachusetts - a large city now, but then we lived on a small gravel road and played full innings of baseball in the street without ever being interrupted by a passing car. Brockton was called the "Shoe City" and my father and most of our neighbors worked in one of the many factories in town. I had no brothers or sisters so did a lot by myself, and always thought I was going to be a chemist when I grew up. My childhood hero was Thomas Edison, and I had a chemistry lab for a lot of years. Everyone wondered when I would blow the house up.

Briefly describe higher education, jobs, settings, and experiences before you met and married.

**Ted:** After high school I worked as a mechanic for a while, then carpentry, and had an oil burner repair license for a while, but often just supported myself by shooting pool. Not the best work environment. I volunteered for the draft during the Vietnam War but was rejected because of a medical condition. Since that didn't work out, and wanting to serve the community somehow, I took the exam to enter the state police academy, began the academy training in June of 1971, and graduated in September. I worked as a trooper until a back injury forced me to the sidelines. Since there is no permanent "light duty" it was recommended that I retire. As Providence would have it, the end of an exciting career meant that I had time to visit Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where I had a spiritual encounter with the Amish and came to know Jesus as Lord.

**Elinor:** I graduated from Eastern Mennonite College (now EMU) and became a Registered Medical Technologist. After two years of working in a hospital lab near home I applied to MCC and was sent first to Belgium to learn French and also to take an intensive Tropical Medicine course before going to Zaire (now Congo). In Zaire I worked in at an interdenominational hospital in the laboratory and also taught courses in the school for training lab technicians (1977-1980). After two years living in Ohio again, I did another term with MCC, this time in a rural health center in a remote area of Botswana where I set up a laboratory and eventually trained a technician to take over. An MCC colleague and I began a year of traveling to primary schools throughout Botswana giving in-service workshops in Religious Education, a subject taught in public schools (1985). Courses taken at Eastern Mennonite Seminary prepared me for working with African Instituted Churches in Christian Education. I spent another four and a half years in Botswana (1987-1992). During this time I spent four months in Birmingham, England working on the African Bible Guide Project and six months co-leading a Youth Discovery Team with participants from Botswana, Zimbabwe, the U.S. and Canada. The YDT traveled in four southern African countries and across the United States. In the fall of 1992 (just after Hurricane Andrew hit Florida), I began as Administrative Assistant in the Mennonite Disaster Service office in Akron, PA (1992-1994).



What are your hobbies and interests? Name a favorite song, scripture, and/or book that has special meaning to you.

**Elinor:** I love finding old, seemingly worthless things and refurbishing them and making them beautiful and useful again (from furniture to houses). I also enjoy gardening (flowers, not vegetables) and identifying wild flowers. Most of all I enjoy sitting on our porch swing, drinking a glass of iced coffee and watching the birds in the backyard.

A favorite scripture is Philippians 2:1-11. This is also one of Ted's favorites and we had this scripture read at our wedding. Not sure where to start with favorite books . . . I love *The Velveteen Rabbit* but on a different note I enjoyed *The Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster and more recently have enjoyed *Spiritual Classics* and *Devotional Classics* (both co-edited by Richard Foster).

**Ted:** Most of my "hobbies" sound more like work, but I enjoy repairing things, particularly when someone says, "that's beyond repair". I have a big woodworking shop and an equally large collection of mechanic's tools. I have played and studied the game of backgammon for years, and in my pre-Christian days played in major tournaments in Boston and Cambridge, MA. Unfortunately, they are almost always held on Sundays. Now my play is only on the Internet, but that allows me the challenge of playing against folks from all over the world.

Like Elinor, my favorite Scripture is Philippians 2:1-11. As for reading, I have about every backgammon book that's out there, and sometimes pick one up to study it yet again. I have long had a fascination with the Manhattan Project, (the building of the atomic bomb) and have read many books about the project and people like J. Robert Oppenheimer. In a Mennonite context I should issue a disclaimer: the fascination lies not so much with the bomb, but with the incredibly brilliant people who developed it. Otherwise my reading is always related to Anabaptist history and theology. I'm presently reading the biography of Guy F. Hershberger.

How/where did you meet? When/where were you married?

**Elinor:** We met through Mennonite Disaster Service. While I was working in the national office in Akron, PA, I also traveled frequently to the various projects. Ted worked at some of the MDS projects

during 1992 and 1993 (Homestead, FL and Keithsburg, IL after the Midwest floods). Ted is fond of saying that most people think that MDS stands for Mennonite Disaster Service but actually it is Mennonite Dating Service. He also routinely says that I was staring at him during a project director's workshop. We all know that isn't true! However, we did have our first lengthy conversation following that workshop and got to know each other. We were married at Rossmere Mennonite Church in Lancaster, PA, on April 22, 1994.

Share about your life together before moving to New Hampshire - settings, work, church, etc.

**Elinor:** We moved to Homestead, Florida, and worked for The Nehemiah Project. Ted was the Executive Director and I was the Program Coordinator. The Nehemiah Project rehabbed houses that were destroyed in the hurricane and sold them to low-income first time homebuyers. Ted oversaw the re-building of the houses and I worked with the families to straighten out their finances and help them to qualify for the mortgages. The offices of The Nehemiah Project were at the Homestead Mennonite Church and we also attended church there.

What led you to choose the rural New England life?

**Elinor:** After we left The Nehemiah Project we learned that Ted's mother was diagnosed with a terminal illness. We lived in Pennsylvania for a year but wanted to be closer to Ted's mother. We hoped to find a "fixer upper" and rehab a house for ourselves. And we found the biggest fixer upper ever in Grafton! Ted used to say he wanted to have cows and pigs and sheep and chickens. Well, we did raise steers and had free-range chickens for quite a few years. We never got to the pigs and sheep, though.

What were the biggest challenges and greatest rewards? What are your dreams/plans for the future once your house is sold?

**Ted:** The biggest challenge has been living in a house while you are renovating it. It means that you have to renovate one room at a time rather than gutting the whole house at once. It also means that you live with a lot of dust and dirt and spend a lot of time cleaning. I didn't get the pigs and sheep, but during the first year in our 200-year-old house we trapped 132 mice! The house had been vacant (of humans) for two or three years before we moved in. Once the house is sold we hope to move somewhere that has milder

winters. We don't know yet where that will be but are thinking about exploring possibilities in Virginia and North Carolina. We are waiting to see what God has planned for us in the next phase of our lives.

### How have your spiritual journeys taken the path to service?

**Ted:** As my mother's health declined we were able to close up our house and move to Massachusetts to care for her until her death. She was not a believer, seemed to be fearful of God, and was not open to hearing about the gospel. One friend of mine even flew from Chicago to see her and talk to her about the message of the gospel and went away frustrated and saddened. The evening of her death I was determined to try one more time, and within a few hours of her death she listened to me, understood for the first time the forgiveness that Jesus promised, and went to him with trust and peace. Elinor and I finally saw God's plan - in retrospect - and understood why we had sensed the direction that we did. That was the greatest act of service of my Christian life.

**Elinor:** When I was in college I had to write a paper for a class called Issues in Ethics and Theology. The paper was to be a statement of our personal ethics. Through the process of writing the paper I felt that if I lived out what I believed then my life should be given in service. That was when I decided that I wanted to do a term with MCC. I loved it so much that one term grew into eleven and a half years of volunteer work in Africa. When I returned to the States it was natural to continue working and volunteering through various service organizations. I attempt to live out this calling wherever I am. This is where my heart is. I hope that my life is more than renovating and saving an old house. I love old houses but the Bible doesn't say anything about saving old houses!

### What experiences at Taftsville Chapel have helped you on your spiritual journeys?

When we first came to Taftsville we were feeling very spiritually dry. We felt that there was real worship happening here and we reveled in that. Taftsville is a family and we have so very much enjoyed being part of that family and being able to worship along with you.

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## Learning from Travel

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### Reflections on EMU Middle East Term

For those of you who don't know already, I spent January through the end of April studying and traveling through the Middle East as it relates to the Bible. Our studies consisted of mostly learning outside of the classroom; however, we were given the opportunity to join Arab students at Bethlehem University and other schools in the Bethlehem area where we listened to countless lectures on the various aspects of the current Palestinian-Israeli issue. We started in Cairo where we saw many of the historic sites in northern Egypt and followed the stories of Abraham, Joseph, the Israelites, and Jesus in their experiences there. We traveled from there up the Sinai Peninsula to Jordan in the region that the Israelites wandered for years in the wilderness. Because so much of our first three weeks were spent in the desert, we were given a semi first hand perspective of what it would have been like for the Israelites and Moses as God led them around the desert. Our time there was significantly shorter than what they experienced, but it indeed showed me that



The Jordanian desert around the area of Petra that is often associated as the area where the Israelites spent the majority of their 40-year wanderings.

there are not too many other places that will test your faith and perseverance in a relationship with God. The desert goes for miles; even standing on top of the mountain peaks, one sees the desert expanding

for as far the eye can see and it all looks about the same. There are no paths leading the way and there may not be water for days. It is a frightening place to be as it reveals the true vulnerability of humans without God. Living water is something that - though initially confusing to the Samaritan woman and others - is an idea of great value in a scorched land of constantly thirsty people.

There were other daunting situations where at any moment we could be made so vulnerable that our safety would have been jeopardized, but the Lord watched over all 33 of us as we journeyed where Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the Israelites, David, and Jesus journeyed. We were often taught the way Jesus taught the disciples and anyone else who would listen. My faith was consistently tested as we studied Scripture as it relates to the land then and today and the people and their situations then and today. Jews and Arabs have been fighting with one another for thousands of years. A great deal has changed in Israel and yet when I stood on the mountains overlooking Jerusalem, the Galilee, and Nazareth, there is much to be seen and experienced that are exactly as it was 2,000 years ago. People live their past every day.

One of the challenges I faced was trying to understand the importance of land and the material values of the Jews in Israel and the West Bank. I still do not claim to understand the complexity that has encircled that land forever and I know my roots do



**The Old City and Temple Mount of Jerusalem looking from the Garden of Gethsemane (east). The Eastern and Southern walls of the Temple and the three domes of Jerusalem are visible. The gold dome is the Dome of the Rock, the black dome to the south (left) of that is the Al Aqsa Mosque, and beyond is a large light gray dome that is the Holy Sepulcher where Jesus was traditionally crucified and buried.**

not run as deeply as theirs, but I value the experiences I had in the Middle East that would have been impossible to have anywhere else. I still do not believe it is so important to know exactly where Jesus was born or crucified or where Peter's house was in Capernaum or the specific area where the Israelites stayed in the wilderness. It is more the knowledge and the feelings I had when standing in a place and being forced to think about what it took for us to reach the place we are now. I learned what it means to have faith that doesn't die and to serve without being served, to be vulnerable and sneered at and misunderstood. But I also learned what love and caring unconditionally are and how to depend solely on God and his provisions even in the midst of suffering, death, and destruction.

It has been a challenge to return to America where people have such a different culture, tradition and mindset towards others, the world, and life than Arabs and Jews have. My values and experiences are no longer familiar to anyone else and so in returning to what seems like a strange place that was once familiar, I must still persevere and hold strong to the faith that I learned about in God's land. I am still on the journey I set out for in January and I am realizing that it is only the beginning of something more that will prepare me for the rest.

- Ruth Ellen Dandurand



**Ein Gedi the only green area and fresh water spring in the Rift Valley where the Dead Sea is. Even in the bleakest sections of the desert there is life. King David used what Ein Gedi had to offer for water and safety.**



## Reflections on Finland

I have sorely missed being in church with constantly traveling. I am currently still building in Virginia and look forward to coming home in a couple of weeks. Last month Susanne and I were in Finland visiting my parents since my dad teaches there annually in the spring and invited us over for an all-expenses paid vacation. How could we say no to that?

The country is so beautiful, clean, and quiet with almost no crime, superb public transportation, and very little debt. It amazes me that they manufacture their own trains – which run on time like a Swiss watch – and that there is virtually no pollution. As much as I love our country, traveling to other places is a humbling experience – which reminds me that

we have so much to learn from others and would do well to swallow our pride and replicate those qualities here, which are so clearly exemplary there. I know we are used to seeing ourselves as "world leaders" in so many arenas but, frankly, we are not. Europeans do not allow chemically fed beef and in Austria, for instance, they are required to serve organic beef only. Can you imagine if MacDonald's were required to serve healthy food here, where 20% of our lethal meals are ingested in cars? I could go on but I am sure you get the point. God wants us as individuals to be humble and teachable; we would do well as a nation to follow His advice.

– George Abetti

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## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

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

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

*June 20, 1965*

A group of young people arrive from Pennsylvania to help teach Bible School. One of the girls is Janice Hackman. Apparently she liked it here.

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

*June 11, 1970*

A Ladies Cookout will be held at Mary Guntz's with the girls from the Correctional Center.

*June 21, 1970*

A special speaker is scheduled for the Young People's group. Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Martin will share about their experiences of their year of service in Red Lake, Ontario.

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

*June 3, 1975*

NEEDED - Betty Crocker Coupons. If you have some for Candlelighters, please give them to Marie as soon as possible so that we can get the knives to go with the spoons and forks already purchased.

*June 8, 1975*

It was discussed at some length as to whether or not we should have a basic statement of faith for our congregation.

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

*June 22, 1985*

Yard sale to sponsor the Youth Group attending Ames, Iowa convention will be held on R. Glick's lawn. If you need trucking assistance, Allen Guntz will help.

*June 30, 1985*

Ordination service for Nelson Kraybill. Ray Yoder, pastor from Doylestown, will be speaking.

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

*June 13, 1995*

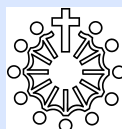
Our oil company recommended putting a heat shield behind the furnace. Also we suggest getting a dehumidifier for the basement.

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

*June 22, 2000*

A \$1000.00 balance is shown as a special gift from Beth Sargent's family to start a chair replacement fund. You are invited to add to this fund as you are comfortable.

### **Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship**



**Randy Good, Pastor**

Dave Swanson, Interim Pastor

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