

# 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.*

Caren Swanson, Editor; Carie Good, Janet North & Virginia Schlabach, Newsletter Staff

May 2011

"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

## How Do Our Hearts Respond?

by Randy Good

*"Do not be glad at the fall of your hater, and let not your heart have joy at his downfall..." Proverbs 24:17*

Here we are, still in the midst of the Easter season, remembering the One who forgave His slayers from the cross. And here we are, just through a season of study and reflection at Taftsville on Jesus' call to us to love our enemies. Perhaps, here we are also on the brink of having our discipleship cost us something.

The national mood is jubilant. There is relief, even glee, and it is being packaged in the notion that justice has been done with the death of Osama bin Laden. But is it that he is dead, or is it really the way that he was killed that is causing all the fist-pumping around us? Is there really "closure" for the folks who lost loved ones ten years ago, or is this more about vindication for our loss of face as an unassailable super power?

The passage in Proverbs puts the command in a compelling way: "Do not let your heart have joy." It's the same grammatical structure as "Do not let your heart be troubled." The embedded assumption in putting it that way is that we have a choice to make; that it is already within our power to decide what informs our response to life's events.

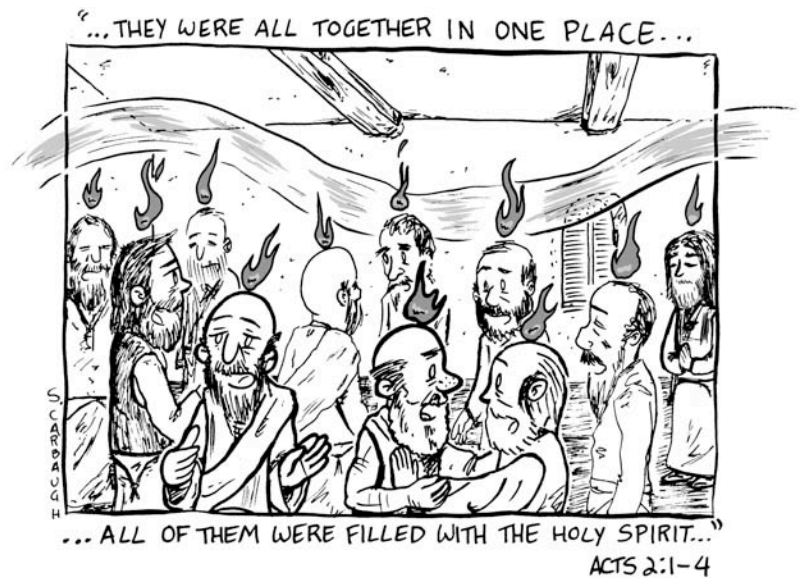
Perhaps even more than in times of conflict with a living enemy, our faithful response to the "victory" over that enemy will put us in obvious opposition to the prevailing cultural mood. We will be way outside the norm. Sometimes being "salt" adds good flavor to our world. Sometimes it can be a preservative. This time, it will sting. We will stand in direct and obvious contradiction to the gloating and glee going on around us, and that will lead to potential persecution.

One heart response that is available to us is grief. Grief that people so quickly let their hearts be joyful, grief that this event is characterized as justice, and grief for those who lost loved ones and will shortly wake up and still feel the loss - uncompensated by the surgical strike that killed the killer. What will they do then?

An additional, and essential, heart response to grief is that it be mingled with hope. Do not let your hearts be troubled. Jesus will make even this the raw material for His good purposes. Wait well, and be prepared to be, at least, misunderstood by the world around us.

*Shalom, Randy*

*Cartoon by Sam Carbaugh*



## Youth Work, Play, Study, and Plan (not necessarily in that order...)

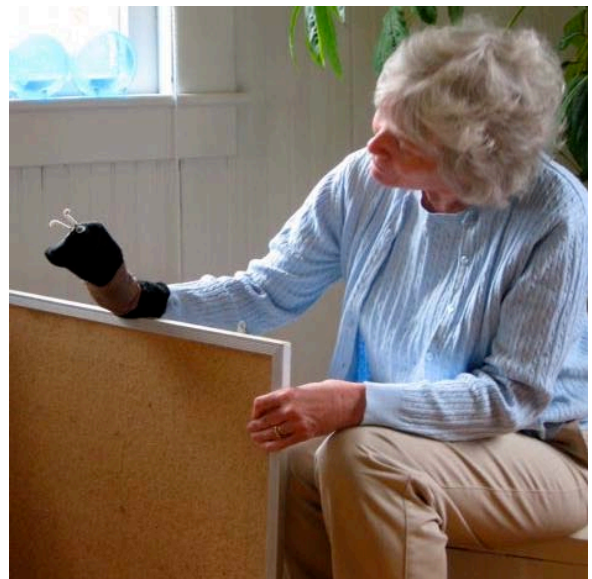
The youth group attended Bethany Birches Teen Weekend on the 2nd and 3rd of April. "Creek" spoke to the youth about relationships and how to have healthy relationships with friends and family. We read 1 Corinthians 13 and talked about how to use the qualities mentioned in our day to day relationships. While at camp we played full contact play dough Pictionary, suggested by Dave Swanson. We were on our toes to avoid members of the other team trying to smash our sculptures as our team was trying to guess the object.

This month we went to the Shattucks' place to do some lawn work for them before they return home: this was a fundraiser for the Mennonite Youth Convention in July. We are all anticipating the summer's activities. We would all appreciate your prayers as we pull through the last few weeks of school before summer vacation. ~Taftsville Youth Group

## Carl the Caterpillar Shares Life Lessons



Clara Swanson and Micah Schlabach listen as Carl the Caterpillar talks to Nancy Pejouhy about ways to know that Jesus is with us. Each Sunday during worship from Easter to Pentecost, Carl and Nancy are sharing stories with the children. Carl came out of an egg on Easter, and each Sunday he grows and changes.



## Library News

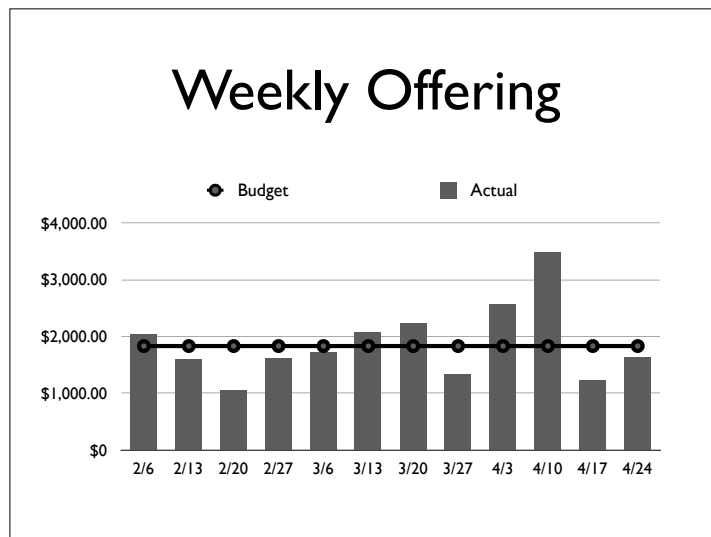
Lynda Knisley's hands hold a page from her handmade, illustrated book *At the Cross*, which is the newest addition to our church library. Last spring Lynda photographed the hands of church members in various positions and then translated them into artwork to illustrate the compilation Carie Good had made of the responses we nailed to the cross during Lent. The hands with a map in this drawing are Carie's hands. In the book, scripture passages are interspersed with our responses to "At the cross I hold on..." and "At the cross I let go...."



Lynda prefaces the book with: "Thanks to Randy Good for encouraging this collaboration of thoughts from worshippers at Taftsville Mennonite Chapel, approaching Easter 2010. As he said on Easter morning, 'these are the words God gave us; things He has already started doing in our lives.' Thanks to Carie Good for arranging the text in such a devotional manner."

*Thanks are also due to Lynda for creating this beautiful devotional book! - VGS*

## Treasurer's Report



### Weekly Offerings:

- 2/06 - 2052.00
- 2/13 - 1595.00
- 2/20 - 1059.00
- 2/27 - 1617.00
- 3/06 - 1730.00
- 3/13 - 2084.00
- 3/20 - 2235.12
- 3/27 - 1341.00
- 4/03 - 2572.00
- 4/10 - 3492.00
- 4/17 - 1235.00
- 4/24 - 1643.00

Weekly Target: \$1833

Total: \$22,655.12  
Budget: \$21,996.00

Year-to-date:  
Total: \$75,385.33  
Budget: \$78,820.65  
Shortfall: \$3435.32

Once again, we've had a few months of ups and downs, but our totals have averaged out to meet our original budget of about \$1833 per week. Thank you all so much! In order to shore up our budget gap, the Church Council decided at our last council meeting to postpone a few larger but flexible payments, such as our regular quarterly giving to BBC, Health in Harmony, and Franconia Conference, until the end of the quarter. While this means we have been able to adequately cover expenses so far, we still haven't made up much of the shortfall we've been running, which is currently about \$3500. This does look like a large number, but broken down over each week until the end of this fiscal year, we can definitely close the gap. If everyone is able to give an extra \$10-\$15 per week, we can easily make our goal!



## Globe Bank Offerings Benefit Living Hope Native Ministries

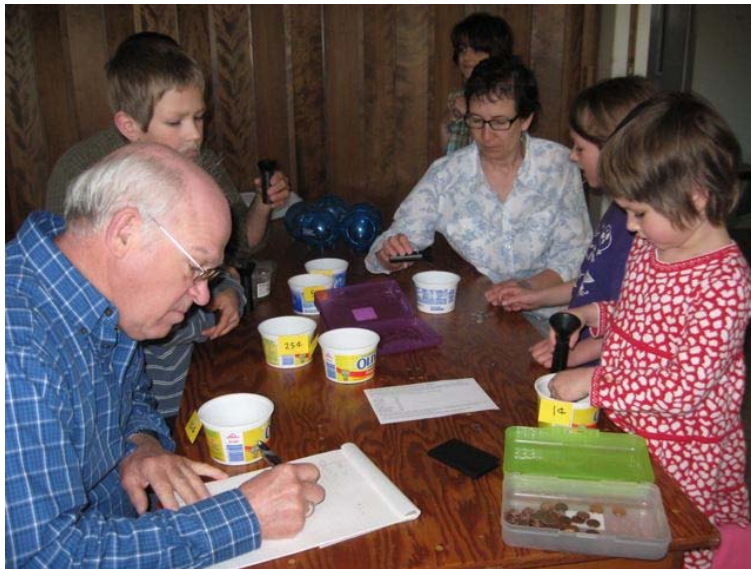


US coins and bills in glowing globes will translate into Canadian dollars to help feed hungry Ojibway children in Pikangikum, Ontario. As of May 8, three Sunday morning offerings raised \$261.24 for Colleen Estes' personal meal ministry. Colleen is on staff with Living Hope Native Ministries.

*(Colleen was misidentified in last month's Current. The woman pictured was her assistant Linda Klein.)*

## Boyhood Memories of Red Lake, Ontario, Canada

Virginia Schlabach interviewed Bob Rosenberger about his experiences at Red Lake, which influenced his life-long interest in the mission now known as Living Hope Native Ministries.



*The mission is headquartered in Red Lake but encompasses a large area of lakes and towns.*

*When were you and your family at Red Lake? Two full years - 1956 to 1958. Did your whole family go? Andy, Ruth (my parents), my older brother Harold, and younger brother Phil. Three other brothers were in college. How old were you? I was 10 when we went. After Red Lake we moved to Carstairs, Alberta, for one year, and Dad flew for Linford Hackman out of a local farmer's field. He flew to Alaska and the western provinces, including the NW Territories. I don't remember the mission being called anything, but it was mission work.*

Bob Rosenberger, the man whose vision sparked the offering project, tallies the count with Calvin, Mabel, and Evelyn McCrory and Jane Glick.

*What caused your parents to become involved in the mission at Red Lake and what did your dad do besides fly an airplane?*

I do not know how he got interested in going to Red Lake, but he loved to fly and he was involved in getting the new plane for the mission. Where funding came from, I have no idea. After the dedication of Taftsville Chapel, Taftsville, Vermont

the plane somewhere in Pennsylvania, he flew the new plane to Red Lake, then flew home commercially and moved us all up there. That's all he did, fly for the mission. He flew every day when there was something to go; from mail to building supplies - you name it, he took it. When we were there, the plane had pontoons on in summer and skis in winter. Now, all the towns and missions have airports and the planes just have tires. Sometimes in winter large pans of oil or kerosene were lit and put under plane engines to warm them up so they would start.

*What were the school and church like?*

It was a large public school. It's where my brothers and I learned to skate and to love hockey. It was very, very cold in winter. We walked some distance to school, along with neighbor kids, and had to wear scarves around our faces to keep from freezing the skin. I understand they still have that cold weather. There was not a Mennonite church at that time and we went to a Pentecostal church. As I recall, it used to get very boisterous at times. There is a Mennonite church in town now.

*Which village did you live in? What was it like and how has it changed? What kind of house did you have?*

We lived in Red Lake, in a mission-supplied house on the outskirts of town. The house had three bedrooms, with a living room in the center of house. There was a furnace in the living room but no heat in the bedrooms unless doors were left open. We had heavy quilts on the beds, made by women from Blooming Glen Mennonite Church. We had a two-holer out behind the house, but we did have a bathroom of sorts - a bucket with a fancy seat for winter use, but Mother used it year around. It had to be taken out to the outhouse to be dumped. There was a large kitchen/dining room and a large utility room with the "bathroom" in a corner. This room was where laundry was done, baths taken, etc. We had running water - in the kitchen there were no faucets or spigots, but a hand pump. Baths were taken in large round metal tubs with water heated on top of the furnace in the living room. There was no upstairs.



Calvin and Mabel McCrory paste food items on the mural - one picture for each dollar collected. At this point, 176 items surrounded the photos of Colleen and Ojibway children who will benefit from our offerings.



Clara Swanson and Dave Beidler stack coins for counting.

You asked how the town has changed. Well, like all towns over the years, life gets better for everyone, including the natives. My brother Harold had been back to visit some time ago, and his remark to me was: "It was wild and wooly when we were there; now it's civilized!" We never went into town on a Saturday night as there was a lot of drinking and fighting in the streets. It was safer to stay home. I do not know the population then, but now it's around 9500, and the gold mine in a neighboring town is still going strong to this day (although, sadly, it doesn't benefit the native people). There are several retired career missionaries who still live in Red Lake. To help support themselves, several had started their own businesses as well as doing mission work. Ivan and Rachel Ramer still live in Red Lake; he co-pastors (or had) a Mennonite church there.

*Did you make friends with native kids? What kinds of things did you do for fun? for chores?*



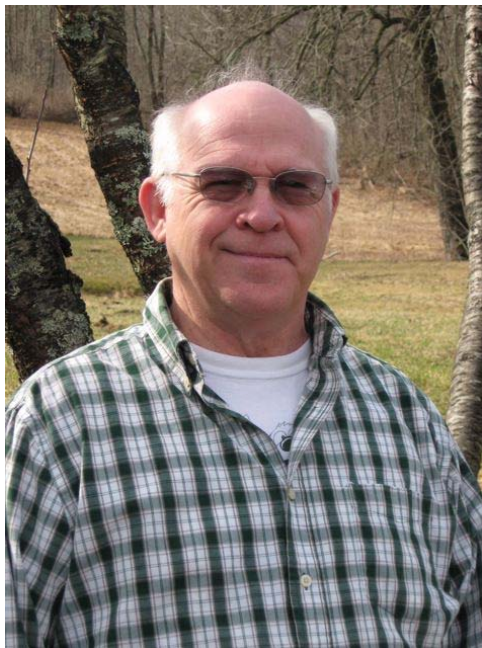
At that time the native kids lived across the lake. The only time that I recall mingling with the native kids was when we went out to the Indian School and when Dad flew into different missions. If there was room in the plane, I would go along. Today there's more chance for kids to get to know each other than there was then. Yes, we had chores - with no sisters we had to dust, vacuum, wash dishes. As for fun, we did play with neighbor kids and we hiked out behind our house into the woods and found lots to do out there, I'm sure.

*The book Under the Northern Lights (compiled by David Siegrist; in our church library) tells a lot of stories about cold weather, bears, moose, sled dogs, landing planes on lakes, often frozen - can you share a story or two of your own of this type.*

In springtime, when ice started to melt, it melted closest to shore first. When the ice got soft, Dad flew the plane out - I think to International Falls, MN - to have pontoons put on and he stayed there till the ice was gone. But other planes stayed on the lake; they just moved farther out on the ice away from shore. There were bets as to who would stay out on the ice the longest, but neither Dad nor the mission ever participated in that. On several occasions, planes stayed on the ice too long and went through the ice. They needed to be removed from the water and ice at the expense of the owner. When that happened, all the planes left the lake till the ice was gone.

I remember Dad shooting a moose and cutting up the meat, with help from other mission workers, in our kitchen. There was meat lying everywhere. Well, there was the time Harold found two small bear cubs and locked them in the outhouse till Dad heard about it. Need I say more?!

I have never been back, but it's all I think about some days....



## **Getting to Know You – Bob Rosenberger**

*After Bob shared his childhood memories of Red Lake, it seemed appropriate to learn about the rest of his life.*

*Besides the three years you spent in Canada, where did you grow up? Share a bit about your family, local environment, school, church – people and/or circumstances that might have shaped who you became as an adult.*

I grew up near Souderton, Pennsylvania, and lived in rural area with many farms nearby. I have five brothers; I'm the second youngest. One brother is deceased from leukemia; my younger brother and his family reside in PA; and my other brothers live in North Carolina, Colorado, and Washington. I went to public high school for my freshmen and sophomore years and to Christopher Dock Mennonite High School my junior and senior years. I did not play any sports, but enjoyed watching them. And there was no ice hockey at school!

I started working in high school and my first summer job was working on a farm for Earl and Elaine Rosenberger (no relation) and living/boarding with them and their family. I went to work Monday morning and returned home Saturday afternoon. I also worked some weekends year-round when Earl and Elaine went away for weekend, doing barn chores, milking, feeding the animals etc. Living with Earl and Elaine was very enriching and I have many fond memories of the years spent with them and their children, not only in work but in evenings with their family and extended family. I was

attending Blooming Glen Mennonite Church with my parents, a very large congregation at 600+. Earl and family went to Perkasio, a much smaller Mennonite church, and through their Christian influence, I started attending there also and eventually changed my church membership to Perkasio. After leaving the farm, I still attended Perkasio church. Earl gave me the nickname of the "ex slave", which I am still called today whenever I see him.

After high school, I started working full time for a John Deere implement dealer. I started out mowing the fields and moving equipment with tractors to mow under them, then driving truck delivering fertilizer and some smaller equipment to farmers. Then I worked my way up into barn crew, where I worked at installing silo unloaders (wasn't afraid of heights then), milking pipe lines, and gutter cleaners and repairing them all (why I probably have a strong stomach to this day). It was while working there that I was drafted...

*We assume that 1-W service brought you to New England. How did you choose Dartmouth-Hitchcock as your location and what was your work? What made you choose to make your life in Vermont rather than return to Pennsylvania?* I chose to go to Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, as it was called then, and took the kitchen storeroom position. As a boy, my family would fly to this area, sometimes landing in fields by Bethany Mennonite Church, visiting with friends of my parents who attended church there. Dad belonged to a flying club and was able to use club planes. So I knew some people in the area. I lived in Oscar's trailer park with three other men in a very small house trailer. My work involved getting food to the kitchen for the day's meals and bakery needs, taking meals to different floors, and stocking refrigerators with juices and soda on different floors and wards, accepting deliveries and putting them away. I also set up refreshments for various meetings throughout the hospital and nursing wing. It did not take me long after living here awhile to decide that I liked area enough to want to stay.

*What jobs have you held and what are you doing now?*

After leaving the hospital, I had an apartment in Bridgewater and, for a very short spell, worked in the Bridgewater woolen mill. I also worked in a body repair shop for Dennis Hackman and Gene Weber, did carpentry work in Bridgewater, and then went into business for myself for 20-plus years doing grounds care and maintenance, lawn mowing, and snow plowing till I developed back problems and started working part time as custodian at Bridgewater Village School. It was not a full time job, so I kept some of my easier grounds work accounts.

After 12 years, an opening for a day custodian came up at Woodstock High School and I went to work there, giving up all but a couple caretaking jobs. I have worked at the high school for 17 years. I work full-time year-round, 5 AM to 1 PM. I strip, scrub and refinish floors all summer and vacations during school. I also have four caretaking jobs that I tend to in afternoons after school.

*Along with work, you are a volunteer fireman. What are your other hobbies and interests?*

I joined the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Dept. in 1972 and have been active ever since. I enjoy camping what few times I take the time to go. I enjoy watching ice hockey in winter, especially boys' high school hockey, and I attend all the WUHS games home and away, regardless of whether they are in Brattleboro or Highgate, VT, getting home very late some nights. I ride the bus with the players and get some sleep on the bus riding home. I video-tape school sports - hockey of course, being my favorite - and some school activities and occasional community events. My other interest continues to be Living Hope Native Ministries, and I try to keep in contact through e-mail and regular mail, although that takes up to two weeks for a letter to go through, depending where its going up there.

*Name a favorite song, scripture, and/or book that has special meaning to you.*

My favorite verse is Hebrews 13: 5, "The Lord has promised that he will not leave us or desert us," and I draw on that when times and circumstances get tough for me.

## Hackmans Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Friends and family gathered on two separate occasions in Pennsylvania and Vermont to join Denny and Marie Hackman in celebrating 50 years of marriage. Taftsville Chapel was the setting for the Vermont party on May 7.*



Daughter Glenda and her friend Craig Montgomery check out the photo display. Son Jeff is in the background. Hackmans' other son, Chris, was unable to attend.



Daughter-in-law Rose at the punch bowl.



Back row: Craig Montgomery, daughter Glenda Clough, granddaughter Jennifer Clough, daughter-in-law Rose, grandson Daniel Hackman, son Jeff. Front row: Marie, Dennis, granddaughters Heidi and Hannah Hackman.





The party ends with an impromptu song by the original Taftsville men's quartet: Omar Zook, Richard Glick, Denny, and John Lutz.

## Web Links

**Ruth Ellen Dandurand** is spending five weeks of service in Nazareth, Israel. To read her experiences, check her blog: <http://keepingthepath.blogspot.com/>

Latest from **Health in Harmony**, Indonesia: Globally we celebrated earth day last month, but together we can celebrate Earth Day every day. Plant a tree locally or click on our donate page at [www.healthinharmony.org/donate](http://www.healthinharmony.org/donate) and we will plant one for you!

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Bethany Birches Camp Benefit Auction

**Mark your calendar now** and plan to attend the annual benefit auction to be held again this year at Bethany Birches Camp on September 24, 2011: preview at 9:00 a.m. auction at 10:00 a.m. Hopefully you have given some thought to what you could contribute to the success of this fundraiser. We will need about 115 quality items, value of at least \$25, to be auctioned off. Here is a list of ideas:

- Furniture
- Equipment
- Tools
- Gift Certificates for things some would not typically buy for themselves (Woodstock Inn, golf, nice restaurant, etc.)
- Clothes, Shoes, Jewelry
- Services (lawn mowing, carpentry, digitizing pictures, photography etc.)
- Art or home décor items (unique mirrors, particularly hand-made/crafted)
- Food in pottery or other creative containers
- Toys (bikes, skis, sleds etc.)

Quality, unique, hand-made items seem to sell extremely well at our Benefit Auction. This includes specialty food items like locally-grown meats or homemade pies and the like. Think practical - useful items and things that are consumable always go well. Another set of things that sell well are generally high-demand items like iPads/iPods, certificates for extremely useful services or extremely well-liked restaurants/stores. We are also seeking donations of merchandise or services from local businesses.

Contact Allen Guntz or Fred Schlabach, auction committee members, with questions or ideas of something you could contribute. Notify Allen as soon as you know what you are contributing as the 2011 list has been started.

## TAFTSVILLE TIDBIT TRIVIA

*Do you remember when...*

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

May 11, 1971

There was a discussion concerning reverence inside our church building. It was suggested that after dismissal, we file outside, or to the other side, keeping the main worship center a more quiet place. Loud noises, pushing and running inside the building will be at a minimum.

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

May 8, 1976

This will be the day for our Spring communion, Love Feast and Work day. Supper will be at 5:30.

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

May 7, 1986

A number of summer social activities will be planned. Look for more details about a trip to Boston to see the Red Sox, a horse- shoe pitch, a mountain climb, a fishing trip, or a bike ride.

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

May 13, 1991

"Take note that the youth have signed up to clean the church."

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

May 9, 1996

Marty offered a letter of resignation. Her last Sunday with us will be July 21.

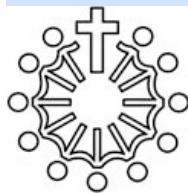
### **10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

May 6, 2001

The annual Hymn Sing will be held at Taftsville. Andover will not be able to join us this year, so we will be providing the main dish and desserts, with Bethany providing salads. We will sing from 4-5:30, and then share a potluck meal together. We will not reconvene for singing after the meal.

### **Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship**

Located in the village of Taftsville, VT, one block south of Rt. 4 on Happy Valley Road.



Randy Good, Pastor

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

Send your contributions for the Current to:

[carenschwanson@yahoo.com](mailto:carenschwanson@yahoo.com) or contact a

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