



# 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.*

Sam Carbaugh, *Editor*, Carie Good & Virginia Schlabach, *Newsletter Staff*

May 2012

## ***Motley Unity*** ***(a fable)***

Once upon a time, there was a motley group of people who, somehow, became as one in their unity, lasting for their appointed season. But, what a bunch! Loud, coarse, egotistical, judgmental and power-hungry. Quiet, dense, greedy, and lazy. Short-tempered, short-sighted, short-faithed, and (at least one) just plain short. Between them they possessed all the human failures.

A few were related by birth already; a few by common trade. A few were connected by distant ancestry and religion. Others had nothing more in common than that they were co-air breathers and food-eaters – at least there was that. But it was none of this that held them together.

There were quite a few hard workers among them; some deep thinkers; at least one especially good with numbers; a decent fighter; one or two encouragers; and some with the courage to be curious about everything. At first, there were no scholars, no teachers, no clergy; no doctors, lawyers or Indian Chiefs; no athletes, musicians or artists; though perhaps one or two writers. No Germans, no Italians – (however, there was a Greek)... It would take something truly remarkable to hold such an odd assortment of folks together.

So, one day, they were sent on an important mission. They were given definite instructions, the right tools and even special power. They had clear, measurable and attainable goals, and a healthy division of labor. Out they went – and soon back they came – brilliantly successful! They were overjoyed at their success and rejoiced together in their amazement. But neither their great mission, nor their success, nor even the unique tools and gifts they had all received were enough to hold them together. In fact, discontent began to stir within the group, and a few of them started angling for special places of recognition. Some started worrying about how the money was spent, others questioning who or what should matter most. And it wasn't too long before outsiders began to be eyed with suspicion. To keep things in order, they considered the

need to get organized, prioritized, structured; efficient and focused. But this, too, would not be enough to hold them together. They needed something...well, **more.**

After several years, and an abundance of shared experiences – wild weather, bizarre encounters, weighty missions, astounding miracles, inside jokes, fish and bread and good wine and more successes and failures and hopes and dreams – they just were not holding together too dependably. Then, one day, they were all invited to dinner. ***When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table, and the disciples with Him. Jesus said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover meal with you."*** (Luke 22:14-15)

Eagerly desired? With ***them?*** Think of who was there for that supper! And what He already knew about all of them.... What they were really like, where they had been, and where they were likely to go... And He invited them all to the table with Him. "Eagerly desired... with you."

They had certainly been through a lot together, this bunch. And they would be through a lot more. But they were there – then – for only one reason. Him. And He is reason enough for us all. When Jesus invites us to His table, we are invited indeed – eagerly desired, deep down, as we are. We are invited, indeed, to be one with Him, and then, therefore, with each other. Which, by the way, was exactly what He prayed for later that same night. No common interests, no shared experiences, not even a grand mission or two is big enough to hold the likes of us together for very long. Only Jesus is big enough to hold us.... Together.

*by Randy Good*

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## **PRAYER AND PRAISE FROM PIKANGIKUM**

*Selections from a March 28th e-mail from Colleen Estes, whose food ministry to hungry children our church supports.*

Hi, my praying friends!

There are some things on my heart that I thought we could bring before the Lord together:

School continues to be disrupted. The elementary teachers have not yet been able to come back. Work was done on the housing units; however, mold levels are still high, and housing shortages exist. There are many teachers leaving at the end of this school year (preplanned before the mold crisis). Pray for qualified, gifted, anointed Christian teachers to apply and be hired! A specific prayer request would be that the Lord would bring us some Aboriginal male teachers with hearts for ministry to our guys.

Pray for M. and P., a couple struggling with alcohol problems. Part of the conditions for the return of their children into their care is that they meet with me on a regular basis. Pray for real freedom for them, and that they would get strengthened in the Lord.

We are thankful. Seven months without the horror of suicide. We declare the Lord of Life reigns in this place!\*

A few weeks ago five of us took a spring break road trip to a Missions Conference in International Falls, International House of Prayer in Kansas City, and Pastor Jerry and Sharon Cummings' home in Norton, Kansas. It was a wonderful encouraging time. We experienced God's protection in a very obvious way when the wheel flew off a vehicle we were transporting for a friend into Pikangikum in the middle of the night!

A song that we have been proclaiming over and over is the song "I See Heaven" by Bryan and Katie Torwalt (Jesus Culture Music): "I see heaven invading this place... I see angels praising your holy name.. I see glory falling in this place.. I see hope restored and healing of all disease... Let your presence fill this place, let Heaven come! We give you praise and all of the honour! You are our God, the one we live for!"

May His presence fill the place where you live and minister! Love, Colleen

*\*For an in-depth article "Living and Dying in Pikangikum"*

*(plus photos) about the suicide problem in Pikangikum, check out the following web link:*

[www2.macleans.ca/2012/03/30/living-and-dying-in-pikangikum/](http://www2.macleans.ca/2012/03/30/living-and-dying-in-pikangikum/)

(Maclean's - a Canadian magazine - recently visited Pikangikum, which they describe as an Ojibwa community of about 2400 in northwestern Canada, home to "the suicide capital of the world.")

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### ***Homer Welch's 94th Birthday***

*Some of Homer's friends from Taftsville Chapel helped Homer celebrate his 94th birthday at the Mt. Ascutney Rehab Center. Cake and ice cream was served.*



*All photos by Allen Guntz. See the whole album online: <http://albg.smugmug.com/Friends>*

## ***Bethany Birches Camp Annual Association Gathering***

It's that time of year... when the allergies begin... when the camp registrations flood in... when we are looking high and low for the best staff we can find... which means that the Annual Association gathering is nigh.

Saturday, May 12 is the date. A few work projects are scheduled for that morning for those of you who are able to lend a hand (starting at 9AM). There will be work on the cabin as well as outdoor work to get camp ready for summer. We'll have lunch and then get to the meeting (1:30pm). If you can't make it to the morning work-out you're still welcome to come to the meeting.

At the meeting, you'll learn about the latest in facility planning (the pavilion project & the cabin progress), hear about ongoing program development and hear the good ol stories of camp - each year I am amazed at how God moves in this place.

Can't wait to see you!

For the Board,  
Brandon, Executive Director

p.s. from 10am to 12noon that same day will be the annual BBC Open house. If there is a neighbor, friend or someone you've just been waiting to tell about camp, bring them along and they can take a tour, meet some staff and get a feel for what their week at camp would be like.

## ***Birth Announcement***

### ***Norah Bethany Wolfe***

*born at 6:50am on Palm*

*Sunday, 4/1/12*

*7 1/4 lbs, 19inches*



## ***Treasurer Report***

*by Tim Good*

Things are continuing to go well as we enter the last quarter of this fiscal year! Over the entire year, we are only below budget on weekly offerings by about \$500. Compared to last year at this time, when we were short by \$3,500, we are in great shape! There is a large variance in weekly offerings, so we may well make up our \$500 difference just through our normal giving by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2012. Thank you, everyone, for your continued support and tremendous spirit of generosity!

### **Weekly Offerings**

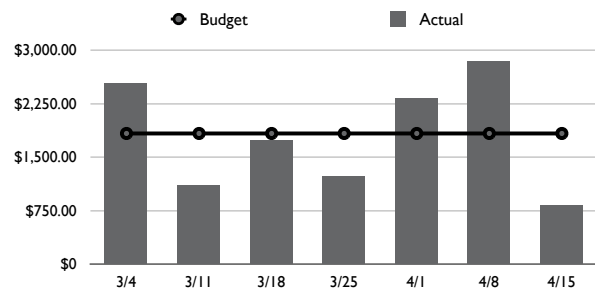
Mar. 4 - \$2,535  
 Mar. 11 - \$1,110  
 Mar. 18 - \$1,731  
 Mar. 25 - \$1,226  
 Apr. 1 - \$2,321  
 Apr. 8 - \$2,850  
 Apr. 15 - \$830  
 Weekly Target: \$1,832

Total: \$12,603  
 Budget: \$12,824

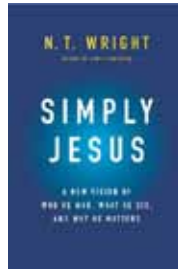
### **Year-to-date**

Total: \$76,430  
 Budget: \$76,956  
 Shortfall: \$526

## **Weekly Offering**



## ***New to Our Library***



by *Lynda Knisley*

There is nothing omitted or watered down in *Simply Jesus*. N.T. Wright subtitled his book “A new vision of who He was, what He did, and why it matters”. Mr. Wright skillfully explains this “new vision” of Jesus in the context of Jewish customs and volatile political activity which led directly to the cross. The author often states that the brief life of Jesus is “dense” with layers of Old Testament prophesy and symbolism which “simply” overpower the sloppy skepticism of our day. Mr. Wright speaks fluently in a conversational tone, and prints his main points in italics so they are easy to find again. The reading is compelling, since it moves within history and then into the time when heaven and earth are One.

## ***TAFTSVILLE TIDBIT TRIVIA***

Do you remember when...

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

*May 20, 1972*

We will meet for work day and love feast with activities starting at 2:00 p.m. A list of projects to be completed will be posted for signatures. Possibly some of the womenfolk could take care of some of the inside jobs, freeing the menfolk for the outside ones.

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

*May 3, 1977*

The fence between the church property and the Lewen's must be replaced. Mrs. Lewen requested that we replace it, since we pushed it over again.

*May 29, 1977*

Ascension Day Service at 10:00 am at Bethany Birches Camp with a picnic lunch following.

*January 4, 1977*

A letter was written to the Franconia Conference regarding steps to securing the title to the church

building. In order to secure the title, three trustees had to be named. Council appointed Brian, Allen and Harold as these trustees.

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

*May 18, 1987*

A kiddie-size table in the kitchen side of the basement would make it easier to serve meals or snacks to kids, and keep food entirely on the linoleum side.

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

*May 5, 1992*

Mention was made of the missing slates on the roof. The trustees will need to make an assessment.

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

*May 15, 1997*

The Vermont Cluster churches are gathering some money to assist Hubert Swartzentruber with some car repairs he had during his last trip to Vermont.

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

*May 5, 2002*

If you like four-part hymn singing, join the other Vermont Mennonites at the Andover Community Church in Chester, VT at 4 pm this Sunday for singing and potluck supper. Taftsville is bringing salads this year.

### **Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship**

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



**Randy Good, Pastor**

[www.taftsvillechapel.org](http://www.taftsvillechapel.org)

Send your contributions for the Current to: [samuel.carbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:samuel.carbaugh@gmail.com) or contact a Newsletter Staff member: Carie Good & Virginia Schlabach