



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*

Winter 2012-2013

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Although the Christmas season is past, for many of us the sounds of Handel's Messiah linger in our minds. Many have either listened to the Messiah during the Christmas holiday or have been fortunate enough to attend a live performance of one of the most familiar choral works in Western music. And who hasn't been lifted up – exhilarated, by the familiar *Hallelujah Chorus*?

...and he shall reign for ever and ever.

*Hallelujah: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth...
King of kings and Lord of Lords...*

*The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our
Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches,
and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*

*Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that
sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Amen indeed! A musical celebration of the victory of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The lamb that was slain. The more musically inclined or gifted among us know that the Messiah reflects on the life of Jesus Christ as Messiah, from the prophetic words of Isaiah through the incarnation, death and resurrection and ultimate victory of our Lord. (Not being one of the musically inclined, I had to look it up)

Would you be surprised to learn that each one of the passages I've noted above is from...the book of Revelation? Are you surprised to discover that familiar words of reassurance and victory come from such a mysterious book?

We frequently read and hear teaching from the beatitudes in Matthew's gospel. It's difficult to imagine anyone feeling intimidated by their pastoral reassurance and the promise of blessings from God. Did you know

that in "The revelation of Jesus Christ" you will discover the promise of seven blessings from God? The first two are right at the beginning: *"Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it..."*

God promises blessing to us who read, and those who hear and take to heart what is given to us from Jesus, through his servant John. I might rhetorically ask why we wouldn't want to go there and receive blessing, but we all have had our reasons, haven't we? It seems that there are folks who tend not to read Revelation at all, while others seem to read little else.

There's much in Revelation that is confusing and unclear. One despairing commentator said that a study of Revelation either finds a man mad, or leaves him mad. I believe that there is also much in the book that IS clear, and Jesus said that if we read it and hear it there will be blessing for us. Beginning on February 17th I'd like to venture in and discover the blessing that Jesus promises, and until then I invite you to read the first few chapters with confident expectation.

Ted Shattuck

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Thank You and Updates from Colleen Estes

Bob Rosenberger received this message and photo on November 13:

I wanted to tell you what God did with your church's food donations! For some reason, I had not been notified until September that there was quite a bit of money in the "Hungry Kids Food Fund" at the office - around \$1200 from your church. A few weeks ago, a pilot from Winnipeg contacted me that he had heard about the high price of groceries in Pikangikum, and his wife was willing to do some cost-conscious shopping for us. Their church raised money for fuel, and last Wednesday they flew a planeload in - \$755 worth was what they could fit in the small plane (400 lbs). It was right on time; we had a VERY hungry weekend and gave out 14 boxes to families right away. AND, I could buy the groceries with money to spare!!! Please, pass this on to your church. I am so thankful for their giving hearts for this and for the shoebox presents! God bless you! - Colleen



Virginia Schlabach received this message on December 31 in response to an e-mail with photos and an account of our Taftsville Advent services:

Oh, my, Virginia....Thank you so much for sending what you wrote for the services, and for how we have been knit together!!!! This SO touched my heart, and thank you so much for the pictures that help me to connect. It is interesting...this year for our Christian teachers Sunday gathering, we too were lighting Advent candles, taking special note of the candle of hope.

I will be picking up the Christmas boxes on Wednesday. We are having an awesome time in Kansas City. Has been very good for our two young men to have their eyes opened to the beauty of the body of

Christ around the world. They had an opportunity to give their testimonies and pray for people at a support church of mine about an hour from here. The Lord was with them in a neat way.

Please extend to your church a Gichii Megwetch (BIG THANKS) for all of the finances for food. It was a relief to my heart knowing that I had food supplies for the kids over Christmas.

Love, in Christ, Colleen Estes

Excerpts from a January 9 message:

Happy New Year! A quick update.. I had a nice time with my family at Christmas.. and an encouraging, inspiring, joyous time at the IHOP One Thing Conference in Kansas City! What a New Year's Eve celebration that was! One of the great things about working with youth/young adults is that I get to be part of really cool things!

When we were in Kansas City, we had the privilege of having New Year's Day dinner with about 20 young adults from First Nations all over North America. Kenny and Louise Blacksmith from Ottawa shared their hearts at that gathering and prayed for us. After that meeting, it was like we could feel the presence of the Lord warming our hearts for many, many hours as we drove home!

Thanks for praying... oh, too, I am still distributing Christmas presents.. the people are delighted!!! Thank you so much for the Christmas shoebox presents!

Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship

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



Ted Shattuck, Interim Pastor

www.taftsvillechapel.org

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



Advent-Epiphany

The overarching theme for Advent was “Candles of Hope - Waiting, Looking, Loving” and we used a complementary prayer from the Iona Community as the call to worship for the four Sundays of Advent. Each week, during what is normally the sermon time, several members shared short meditations on the themes of Healing and Hope, Justice and Mercy, Comfort and Joy, and Peace and Reconciliation. We all were blessed and touched by these very personal testimonies of God at work in the lives of our brothers and sisters.

The worship center was inspired by our church’s relationship with Colleen Estes, who ministers among the Ojibway people in Pikangikum, Ontario, with Living Hope Native Ministries. For several years we’ve been sending special funds for Colleen to buy food to make meals for hungry children when their families run out of funds at the end of the month. This Christmas we also packed shoeboxes with gifts for members of two extended families (see article on page 2). So our nativity scene depicted a snowy landscape with a frozen lake (the mirror on which the candles were placed), a stable made of bark, and animals of the northern forest (moose, deer, beaver...), and at the end of each children’s time we sang the beautiful Huron carol, ‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime, with drum and recorder while the Advent candles were lit by one of the children. Also, each Sunday the children added more figures to the nativity scene, which stretched outward to include two small tables, one with sheep and shepherds from Africa and the other representing a “peaceable kingdom” with more sheep, a lion, water buffalo, an elephant, a donkey, and a little child from Mexico. What began as a northern nativity ended up encompassing the whole wide world.



The collage banners hanging on each side of the central window included faces from Pikangikum, Laura Beidler from our church who is serving in Nepal with Mennonite Central Committee, and many unknown people representing all nations of the world. Each Sunday during prayer time a candle was lit for each request - the flames shone upward and also reflected in the mirror. The green candles were the Advent candles representing our themes of Healing and Hope, Justice and Mercy, Comfort and Joy, and Peace and Reconciliation; the white pillar was the Christ candle.



‘Twas in the moon of wintertime: Virginia Schlabbach, Nick Wolfe, Evelyn and Judy McCrory.



Right now our church has very few children so we were delighted to have a number of visitors for the children’s stories on December 23 and 30.



*The stone sheep were carved in Kenya and the wooden cow looks just like the cows in the book *Two Sides of the River*. Two of the shepherds are from Congo. The children arranged the shepherds and animals in response to the Kenyan peace-making story. Mabel McCrory made the star.*



Mary and Joseph arrived in the stable (all the way from Bangladesh!) on December 23. Jesus was placed in the manger at the Christmas Eve service. Shepherds came from Africa on December 30 and the wise men arrived on Epiphany.



On another Sunday we created "The Peaceable Kingdom" with a variety of animals from different countries surrounding a child from Mexico.

Caroling and Christmas Eve

Sunday night, December 23: Omar Zook leads carolers at one of many houses in beautiful, snowy Taftsville. We sang 2 carols and "We wish you a Merry Christmas" at each house and, as this is a yearly tradition for our church, people were waiting for us and came out on their porches to listen. At one house two men opened the door and serenaded us with a trumpet and bass viol duet! Afterwards, hot chocolate and an array of treats awaited us back at the church. The group, one of the largest in recent years, included children (even a baby!) as well as adults.



Angela Zook Zimmerman and daughter Mara add the shepherds.





Miriam Watkins, granddaughter of Allen and Mary Guntz, plays "Joy to the World" and "Silent Night" at the Christmas Eve service.



The Christmas Eve service ended with candle lighting.

The Moose Story has Taftsville Connections



After I read the moose story by Ivan Ramer on the Sunday we added the moose and deer and other northern creatures to the nativity scene, at least four people came to me during coffee time to say that Ivan Ramer and his family went to Red Lake, Ontario, from Taftsville! Allen Guntz provided this photo of Ivan and Rachel and their two sons with the World Book Childcraft books and Bible story books our congregation gave to them at their farewell service in 1967. Sadly, Jonathan, the younger of the two boys,

drowned shortly after they settled in their new home. Ivan shares that story along with other experiences and the moose story on pages 68-72 in *Under the Northern Lights: True Stories of Faith and Adventure*, which can be found in our church library. The Ramers served with Northern Light Gospel Missions (now Living Hope Native Ministries) from 1967-2006 at Slate Falls, Sandy Lake, Stormer Lake, and Red Lake. Bob Rosenberger says they continue to live at Red Lake where Ivan had a cabinet business. - Virginia Schlabach

Taftsville's Top Twelve Christmas Carols

Eighteen people responded to a congregational e-mail poll inviting each person to choose 12 favorites from a selection of carols. The top 12 were sung at the Christmas song service on December 28. Three carols were tied for number one. The votes for each carol are in parentheses.

- 1 - To us a child of hope is born (13)
- 2 - Silent night, holy night (13)
- 3 - Joy to the world (13)
- 4 - Hark! The herald angels sing (11)
- 5 - O come, all ye faithful (11)
- 6 - What child is this (10)
- 7 - It came upon a midnight clear (8)
- 8 - Angels we have heard on high (8)
- 9 - Oh, how joyfully (8)
- 10 - O little town of Bethlehem (7)
- 11 - Christ is born in Bethlehem (7)
- 12 - O come, O come, Immanuel (6)

Special Notes

Allen and I want to express our THANKS for the lovely flowers we received and the many ways you have supported us with prayers and caring during this past year + when our son-in-law battled cancer.

Thank-you,
Allen and Mary

Rosalind & Carl Andreas move to Kansas

With the help of Carl's middle son and our daughter-in-law, formerly from LaVeta, CO, we made it. They are care taking our Vermont home for a couple of years after their house sold as we were preparing for the move. In this way, we can get back to visit in the summer, which makes Carl very happy.

New contact info:
 516 Witmarsum West Drive
 North Newton, KS 67117
 316.804.4218
 email the same

Friends and family here have been so welcoming. We are near the Bethel College campus and the Bethel College Mennonite Church, and that helps in our transition as well.

2012-13 BBC Winter Program Schedule

Session	Grade	Price
Family Fun Day: Feb 3	All ages!	FREE
Bobcat Snow Camp: Feb 15-17	3 rd – 6 th	\$70/\$85/\$100
Polar Bear Snow Camp: Feb 22-24	6 th – 8 th	\$70/\$85/\$100
Lynx Snow Camp: Mar 1-3	5 th – 8 th	\$70/\$85/\$100
Connect Apr: 6-7	9 th – 12 th	\$30/\$40

TAFTSVILLE TIDBIT TRIVIA

Do you remember when...

40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

December 4, 1972

Singing at the Nursing Homes will be held on the third Sunday of this month instead of the second. Individual gifts for the patients planned by the Candlelighters can be given this same evening. There will be a special Christmas eve social at the Woodstock Correctional Center at 7:00 pm. All are encouraged to attend.

January 12, 1973

A discussion of our singing revealed a need to learn more new songs both from our hymnal and from newer gospel songbooks.

35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

December 6, 1977

In the Church Council notes: "Since Christmas is a time for keeping secrets, we don't have much to report to you this time around!"

January 6, 1978

Let us remember to pray for Omar and Janice Zook the first Sunday of each month, as they minister at the jail.

30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

January 6, 1983

A motion was made to offer a reward for anyone

providing information leading to the identification of the irregular cookie lady. After a brief discussion the motion was defeated and the irregular cookies were enjoyed by all.

20 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

December 31, 1992

The total sales of crafts at the first annual Self-Help Sale was \$10,164.

January 19, 1993

The Zoning Board has granted the church permission to build a ramp on the front of the building. Our request to build a ramp into the Millen Room was denied due to a neighbor's objection.

10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

December 4, 2002

We considered whether the tradition of passing out oranges at Christmas time continues to be meaningful to our group, and decided to continue the tradition by reintroducing the idea during a Sunday morning service.

January 8, 2003

Mary Beck reported that 19 health kits were sent to MCC and that some of the surplus items have been donated locally to The Haven.

Treasurer's Report

Our offerings over the past few months have dipped a little, putting us below total budget for offerings by about \$1300. We usually fluctuate above and below budget, so we should naturally make this up over time. Our expenses are also quite a bit under budget, due to lowered pastoral expenses.

Year-end offering receipts should be in everyone's mailbox for the 2012 tax year. If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding those numbers, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks to everyone for your continued blessings and generosity!

Dec 2, 2012	\$2,660.00	7-Week Budget:	\$13,227.90
Dec 9, 2012	\$1,866.00	7-Week Total:	\$13,552.30
Dec 16, 2012	\$1,615.00	Total YTD Budget:	\$54,801.33
Dec 23, 2012	\$2,367.00	Total YTD Received:	\$53,472.31
Dec 30, 2012	\$1,740.00		
Jan 6, 2013	\$2,090.30		
Jan 13, 2013	\$1,214.00		

