



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.

"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

LAVISHED LOVE

Fast forward just a bit to late afternoon, Friday, February 13th and imagine something with me. You stop off after work at CVS to pick up a new toothbrush and a fresh supply of multi-vitamins. As you walk in, you can't help but notice that the line to the checkout register winds far back into the store, and is almost totally populated with males of all ages laden with heart-shaped candy boxes and greeting cards with glitter on them. The look on their faces varies: Stress, uncertainty, and displacement. Many are glazed over with self-consciousness. Those are the happy ones. Look closely at the others and you see impatience, annoyance, resentment, and maybe even some hostility. They are looking at their watches a lot, and craning their necks to see how fast the line is moving, because time is running out. All this time, more guys are pouring in the door, many taking one look at the line and running out again to try their luck at Shaw's or Price Chopper. The ones who decide to stay have just come from Shaw's or Price Chopper. A few attempt to break the tension by joking with each other about their common predicament. There is a lot of eye rolling, grimacing and head shaking amidst an air of resignation and gloom. Ah, love.

OK, thanks, enough imagining for now. That was all fictional, right? Statistically, Valentine's Day runs a very close second to Christmas as the retail holiday with the highest dollar amount of receipts. Is this due to love? Also, statistically, late February and early March see the highest incidence of new appointments scheduled with couples' counselors. Anybody curious as to why?

Our reality is this: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). It's hard to know which word, or words, Jesus might have emphasized in His tone as He gave His followers this command. One thing is clear: He did not say "It might be a good idea if you loved one another." It was a command, and a biblical certainty is that He never commands us to do something that He does not also equip us to do. For now, let's pick just one facet of this command to ponder: "As I have loved you...."

I'm convicted, and captivated, by the thought that if we love as He loved us, one of the first things to disappear is our need for reassurance and safety. Jesus is never insecure or tentative in His love for us. He never checks with us first to see what His love should look like. He loves us out of His limitless freedom. It challenges us to love one another even though there is the possibility that our love would not be good enough and that we would somehow get it wrong. Do we sometimes want "PRE-assurance" that our love will be accepted? Jesus knew that many would reject His love, and yet He freely lavished it all the same.

Lavished. No careful measuring out of love based on the performance or deservedness of the one being loved, but rather a strong, joyous abundance out of the overflow of the Father's love for Him. "As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you" (John 15:9). I imagine that if we wrongly expect that what God wants from us is something we can never measure up to, we could drift into approaching Him, and therefore each other, with the same insecurity as many of the guys in the endless candy and card line on Valentine's Eve. The wrong kind of trust in Him will result in the wrong kind of love for each other.

Hopefully, the extended time we have spent pondering the depth and breadth and height of His love for us as taught in Romans and Hebrews will move us closer to loving "As He has loved us." There is so little, if anything, in what the world characterizes as love. Perhaps that is exactly why He told us that the world would know that we are disciples of His as it sees our love for one another lived out in reckless abandon and unselfconscious freedom. Just like He first loved us. *-Randy Good*

Haiti - People with beautiful hearts

On Sunday February 22nd, Leah Beidler will be coming to Taftsville Chapel and sharing about her involvement with the Haitian people during our worship service. Don't miss this presentation. Leah gives the following brief review of how these children and their families have stolen her heart.

The heart of Haiti is in its people. I quickly learned that my first year in Haiti as a volunteer Elementary teacher, English teacher, and soccer coach. In 2006, I moved to Haiti for a year to teach a missionary's adopted Haitian children. During this year I came to love Passe Cataboise, the people, and the hearts of the children. After a year I returned home and felt inspired and the Lord's calling to never forget the hearts that live in Haiti. I decided to organize a month summer camp for the town of Passe Cataboise. The Lord allowed me to recruit 4 friends, raise 8,000 dollars to facilitate this camp in Haiti, Camp Hope: Bringing JOY to the Broken Children of Haiti. We served 120 children. This summer camp went from 9-1, everyday. We provided arts and crafts, sports, bible study, soccer clinics, a food program, and a mural project. The Lord was so good and we saw favor everyday. This year we will be

traveling back in the summer to serve more children and look deeper into the hearts of the children. Lastly, In December we went back for a week to deliver raised relief funds. After the hurricanes my heart felt burdened to help these people. They had destruction from the hurricanes and are still recovering. The Lord showed amazing favor and we were able to raise 16,000 dollars to take over to support relief work. Haiti holds half my heart, sometimes most of it. 80 percent live below the poverty line in Haiti. The land is dry, the houses are weak, the jobs are minimal, but the people's hearts are BEAUTIFUL. This is why I go. To be the feet for Jesus and shine love on the beautiful hearts of Haiti's people.

- Leah Beidler



For more information on Camp Hope in Haiti, go to Leah's blog:

<http://camphopehaiti.blogspot.com/>

Candlelighters



Candlelighters February Project

Our February project is to make care packages for Ruth-Ellen Dandurand and Laura Beidler who are both in college at Eastern Mennonite University. A sign-up list is posted on a bulletin board with suggested items. You can add your own ideas. There will be boxes in the Millen room to collect your items for them. The boxes will be there on Sunday, January 25th, February 1st and 8th. Paper will also be provided for you to take home and write a note to them, which will be included in the boxes.

One way Candlelighters are reaching out —

Ruth Ann, Janice, Nancy, Carmeleta and Mary gathered together after the women's breakfast to tie this colorful quilt that Ruth Ann pieced. This quilt was sent to MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) where they gather contributions from many groups and individuals, and disperse to different parts of the country or world that are in need of warm blankets.

Ladies breakfast for this month is on Saturday February 7th at Panera Bread Restaurant in the West Lebanon Plaza. Note that this is a week earlier than usual.



Library Nook

THE REASON FOR GOD Belief in an Age of Skepticism by Timothy Keller

This black title on the white cover suggests a straightforward explanation: why God is necessary in our lives, or perhaps a list of our needs aligned with God's gracious supply. Keller could offer this from his pulpit on Sundays, but 5,000 followers include those too blocked by objections to adopt such black and white ideas. But what happens when a theologian greets rational doubts with respect, and offers alternative logic worthy of careful thought? What persuades our **reason** to vote **for God**?

The Reason For God is "an overview of the current debate on faith for those who doubt and for those who want to reevaluate what they believe and

why" (Publishers Weekly) Keller lays out a path through questions such as: "How can a good God allow suffering?" He welcomes objections such as: "The church is responsible for so much injustice" and there can't be just one true religion". Keller devotes the second half of his book to what he calls "the clues of God". His tone becomes personal as he explains sin, grace, and forgiveness with Scripture. A chapter entitled "The Reality of the Resurrection" is exuberant, even irresistible.

Keller expands on the main text with 40 pages of articulate notes at the end. And since The Reason For God includes so many topics, the index is detailed, helpful, making specific ideas easy to retrieve.

— Lynda Knisley

Congratulations to George and Susanne Abetti



Susanne and I were married in Paris by one of the deputy mayors on December 30th. It was quite a moving ceremony—since the French love pomp and circumstance—and we had most of Susanne’s close friends with us. The wedding was followed by a traditional “Vin d’Honneur” (wine of honor) reception, and then a four-hour dinner in a wonderful restaurant located in the former chateau/home of Lafayette.

We honeymooned for a week in the Loire Valley staying in some old B&B Chateaux that were gorgeous and ate like royalty...it actually snowed and was quite cold but that made it easier to return to VT where Susanne is settling in with her Persian cat and beginning to leave her loving imprint on the house...

- George

| Taftsville Tally | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------|
| | Attendance | Offering |
| January | 4 ----- ?----- | \$1,920.00 |
| | 11 ----- 40----- | 1,060.00 |
| | 18 ----- 54----- | 1,003.00 |
| | 25 ----- 60----- | 1,445.00 |

Please note that these totals do not always reflect the final tally.

Websites of Interest in the Mennonite Church

Mennonite Education Agency’s mission “to strengthen the life, witness and identity of Mennonite Church USA through education.”

www.mennoniteeducation.org

“While church education includes formal educational settings like Mennonite preschools, primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, and seminaries, it also includes Sunday school, Bible school, mentor programs and other opportunities to teach others about God and faith. Persons of any age can learn and can teach others. Who hasn’t learned something new from a child during the children’s time?”

Sunday, February 1, is the designated Church Education Sunday in 2009. Pray for our students and teachers in our congregation, in our conference, and throughout the larger church.

NEW WINE/NEW WINESKINS: RESHAPING MCC FOR THE 21st CENTURY

is a process to engage all MCC stakeholders in discerning God’s direction by creating a common vision and revised structure for MCC. The new website now features a monthly theme, a new “Question of the Month”, and The “Grapevine” Blog. The goal is to generate discussion through the Question of the Month, so everyone is encouraged to visit the site at the beginning of EACH month to see what question is posted. What better way to gather as many voices as possible to help guide MCC in the months to come?

Get involved! Go to

<http://mcc.org/newwineskins/>.

Mennonite Women USA (MW USA) announces its new Web site, which went live November 1. The new Web site can be accessed at www.mennonitewomenusa.org. The site includes a variety of resources for women, ministry opportunities, group resources, Women’s Bible Study Guide information, worship resources and links to contemporary issues such as human trafficking.

Directory Changes/Updates

Ken and Jane Glick’s Email: kjglick@hotmail.com

Ken Glick’s Email: ken.glick@hotmail.com

Ken Glick’s Cell Phone: 802-296-1425

Schedule for February

Each Sunday morning: 9:30 am – Worship Service

10:45 am – Coffee and Fellowship

11:00 am – Sunday School

February

- 1 9:30 am – Ekklesia
- 7 7:00 pm – Men’s Breakfast / Eaton’s Sugar House
- 7 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast / Panera Bread in West Lebanon
- 15 Tentative Valentine Dinner – Youth Fundraiser / *More information coming soon*
- 20 Pastoral Care Team Meeting
- 22 9:30 am – Leah Beidler’s sharing on Haiti
- 24 Deadline for March issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*

February Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 6 Marie Hackman | 18 Skip Chalker |
| 12 Tim Good | 21 Victoria Dandurand |
| 15 Seth Dandurand | 25 Virginia Schlabach |
| 16 Dimitri Eisenberg | |

February Anniversaries

- 11 Marie & Dennis Hackman

February Childcare

- 1 Jane Glick
- 8 Mary Guntz
- 15 Carie Good
- 22 Karen Cox

February Song Leaders

- 1 Omar Zook
- 8 Janet North
- 15 Allison Fletcher
- 22 Virginia Schlabach

February Cleaning

- 1 Chalker
- 8 Collins
- 15 Collins
- 22 Cox

February Coffee

- 1 Karen Cox
- 8 Mary Guntz
- 15 Abner Schlabach
- 22 Richard & Ruth Ann Glick

New friends, Christopher McCrory and Winifred Deitrich



Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

Do you remember when...

45 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 12, 1964

The first recorded Business meeting, at which Murray Beidler suggests paying the men at the Rutland Rescue Mission \$30.00 to bring wood for the stove. A local man had been receiving \$25.00.

February 11, 1964

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Hackman celebrate their THIRD wedding anniversary

35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 10, 1974

The summer Bible School committee decided to try the new one-week materials this year, having a program for parents on a Sunday evening.

February 24, 1974

Wesley and Cheryl Lapp will show pictures of their trip to Israel. This will be in place of Bible Study.

30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 7, 1979

For Mid-week service - please bring wedding pictures.

February 22, 1979

The Candlelighters' project for the evening was cutting out kimonos to be sewed up at home. We will give the kimonos along with receiving blankets to APD to be given to new mothers who do not have sufficient clothing for their new babies.

25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 11, 1984

Basement dedication and celebration for the new church basement. David Lutz showed slides of his cycle trip.

February 23, 1984

At the close of the church council meeting, Ruth Ann served coffee and cake while members discussed many important issues including trials and tribulations of home plumbing problems.

15 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 5, 1994

Men's monthly breakfasts have been missed and will commence again. The February breakfast will be held at the Holiday Inn.

Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship



*Located in the village of Taftsville,
one block south of Rte. 4 on
Happy Valley Rd.*

Randy Good, Pastor

(802) 457-1516

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

Send your contributions for

"The Taftsville Chapel Current" to:

rdjgcollins@mac.com

OR slip a note in my church mailbox

OR contact a Newsletter Staff Member:

Carie Good, Janet North, and Virginia Schlabach