

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

November 2009

"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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**"Say thank you"** was one of those frequent instructions that most of us heard as we grew up. It was part of becoming a respectful member of society, and hopefully, saying it would deepen our sense of belonging to a larger world than just ourselves. But did it foster a sense of real gratitude any more than the instruction to "say you're sorry" invited a sense of real regret? Did the prompt to say "thanks" do anything to diminish our youthful sense of entitlement? Did it draw us closer to the one being thanked, or did it just fulfill a moral convention that we felt no ownership of? Typically, once our "thanks" was dutifully recited out of obedience to the expectation of others, we returned to our own self-interests.

How much of this dynamic remains (uninvited) in our thanksgiving to God? What, really, stirs genuine gratitude in our hearts? In my life, real awareness of what God has done most often seems to be connected to and released by my awareness of real helplessness without Him, and that is an awareness that I can tend to avoid. (see the parable of the tax collector in Luke 18:10-14 for one example of this)

The voices of the world set us up for this, and we cooperate. The virtues of self-reliance, self-made competence and self-sustained wellbeing are advertised as having supreme value. The world makes it seem as if the only other option is an annoying and pathetic neediness, and cautions us against being perceived as lacking anything that we can't acquire for ourselves through our own good efforts.

A genuine sense of relational community is the first casualty of this trap, and a profound loneliness follows. So it is in our relationship with the community of the Trinity as well. Our "thank you" to God becomes perfunctory, and our hearts grow that much colder.

Here's a suggestion for this upcoming Thanksgiving season: Let yourself enjoy what is good in your life as if it was picked out for you by Someone who knows you so well. It's probably not all that helpful to contemplate

the theology of all God has done for us if our "enjoyer" is shut down and our sense of disappointed entitlement is on the loose. Prepare to feel a bit vulnerable, but also a bit lighter. "Rejoice in the Lord always" Paul shouts to the Philippians, "I will say it again: Rejoice!" Let yourself deeply enjoy.

Like everything else of actual value, this kind of enjoying requires that mysterious brew of faith plus action; trust plus obedience. One without the other is inert, and both (notice please) are a gift: "For it is God who works in you both to will (want to) and act (do it) according to His good purpose."

So, Happy Thanksgiving. Or said another way, may you be happy in the giving of your thanks. May this season be filled with a fresh awareness of, and delight in, His good purposes.

- Randy Good

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## Thanksgiving Offering

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Every November, Americans celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving with a glorious feast. We remember with gratitude the abundance that God provides. At Taftsville, we have a long-standing Thanksgiving celebration, too. We offer our thanks by joyfully returning a free-will offering in the name of Christ. This is over and above our regularly scheduled offering. Our generous Thanksgiving Offerings usually go to support a local ministry or need. This year, our Thanksgiving Offering will be going to the Upper Valley Haven in White River Junction. According to their website, [www.uppervalleyhaven.org](http://www.uppervalleyhaven.org) the Haven is a private, non-profit human service agency that serves people struggling with poverty by providing shelter and education to homeless families, and food, clothing and support to anyone in need.

We have an ongoing food collection, the blue box in the Millen Room, which is regularly delivered to the Haven as it fills with our donations of non-perishable items. During our Thanksgiving Service on November 22, we will have an opportunity to bring together our food donations as an act of worship. Nutritious, non-perishable foods such as pasta, sauce, soup and peanut butter are always appreciated. In addition, our monetary offerings this year will also go to help sustain the Haven's regular budget, as well as benefit the new shelter for single adults that is under construction (see below). You may already be praying to discern what the Lord would have you joyfully bring, as we share in our Thanksgiving Offering on November 22.

### A New Haven Shelter

As a shelter that serves homeless Upper Valley families exclusively, the Haven is unable to provide shelter for adults and couples without children. Last year, 93 single women, 93 single men and 58 couples for a total of 302 individuals unaccompanied by children contacted the Haven for shelter and were referred to facilities 30 to 100 miles away. The actual number of individuals who need shelter is estimated to be even higher, as many people know we are a family-only facility. Currently, the closest adult shelter is 25 miles away in Claremont, New Hampshire.

To meet the rapidly increasing need for adult shelter in the Upper Valley of Vermont, the Upper Valley Haven is constructing a new shelter for single men and women, and couples without minor children. We expect many of our guests to be veterans due to the close proximity of the Veterans Administration Hospital. The new shelter is being built on our (VA) campus using the remaining foundation of our original building (an addition that was built in 1988) and new construction.

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## Youth Conference Highlights

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Four members of the youth group made a brief presentation on Sunday, 25 October, in which they shared some of the highlights of the Youth conference they attended in July. Seth and Victoria Dandurand, Hayden Cox, and Ben Beidler shared their impressions of the bi-annual, youth event (dreadlocks and "booty-ex" dance moves not being a staple of a more senior Mennonite crowd.) While Hayden and Seth disagreed on which of the two speakers, each named Shane, was the best, Ben explained the awe they felt upon entering the venue with the worship already underway. Victoria then described the culminating event, which involved a casting of fears written on mirrors at the base of a cross. The Taftsville contingent, young and not-so-young, was very moved by the ceremony. They were also quite impressed with Columbus's escalators. "There are no escalators in Vermont," they informed the congregation.

You can stay tuned and become a fan of our Taftsville Youth by visiting their facebook page. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), and type "Taftsville Youth" in the search bar.

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## Coffee Time

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Some things that you probably don't know about our weekly coffee time at Taftsville: Our "Fair Trade" coffee is purchased through the MCC US Coffee Project, which is a partnership between Mennonite Central Committee and Equal Exchange. Each year Equal Exchange makes a donation for each pound of product purchased through the Coffee Project to the MCC US Small Farmer Fund. In 2008, this totaled \$3,440! So we at Taftsville are helping in our own small way while we partner with others and enjoy our cup of joe at the same time. - Abner Schlabach

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## Library News

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### Library Cataloging News - *Melissa Ayres*

Perhaps you're curious if we own a certain book or what we have by a favorite author. Imagine the ease of flipping through a list!

The first phase of cataloging our church library is nearing completion. This has involved light culling and creating an author card for each item. Thank you to everyone who helped. The next phase will be to create a database on a thumb drive. The expectation is that this will be sortable. The result would be paper copies of our collection by title, by author and by subject. If you are knowledgeable in data management or just plain enjoy typing here is an opportunity for you. It's time for the typing to begin! Anyone interested in contributing to building the database please see Lynda or Melissa.

### Hidden Treasures - *Lynda Knisley*

We've unearthed glad surprises while cataloging the library collection. "Unforgettable" writing applies to Walter Wangerin, Jr., for example. If you've read The Book of the Dun Cow and the sequel, The Book of Sorrows, you are probably still haunted. *Who knew* that

Wangerin is available here and now? Likewise, Philip Yancy and Brennan Manning showed up on our library shelves. "Classic" and contemporary storybooks are available to children. Illustrations often attracted us to the best among the rest.

**Hidden treasures** include a generous supply of worship resources, which we shelved with 'Reference'. We are impressed that creative believers have gathered so many prayers, readings, scriptures, hymns, anecdotes, and object lessons within seasons and themes. These are super for family gatherings, journaling, or for corporate worship.

### Share Your Treasures!

Send us an email of your favorite authors and books. What has captured your imagination? Inspired you this year? Books that you've discovered may be just the treasure someone needs to read, or wrap and give away. Send an email to Carie, and we'll see what suggestions we can share in the next issue of the Current, in time for Christmas!

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## Every Little Boy's Dream - *Abner Schlabach*

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I guess it's every little boy's dream to ride on a fire truck.

Well, for two little boys from East Barnard, Fred and me, the dream came true during the last two days. Fred of course, is a fireman, so he's ridden on our fire truck many times but this was going to be different -- this was going to be a long ride!

The past few weeks have been exciting ones for the Broad Brook Fire Association as a new (well, new for E. Barnard) mini-pumper was purchased and the plans fell into place for bringing it to Vermont from its home in Maryland. Early Friday morning, Oct. 9, Fred and I were driven by a member of the fire company to the Manchester, NH, airport at 5 am for a flight to Baltimore, where we were picking up a rental car to

drive one and a half hours south to Hollywood, MD. (If you want to check a Maryland map, follow the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay south of Baltimore to where the Patuxent River flows into the bay at Solomons, MD. Just across the Rts. 2 & 4 bridge, follow Rt. 235 northwest through California and you'll see Hollywood.)

After picking up the truck we drove North on Rts. 2 and 4 to Chesapeake Beach (north of Solomons right along the Chesapeake) where we stopped for lunch at ABNER'S CRABHOUSE! (This is a place Virginia and I often visited when we lived in Pennsylvania, usually to celebrate my Sept. birthday. Incidentally, the proprietor's last name is Abner.) After returning our rental car to the Baltimore airport, we traveled north on I-95 in heavy traffic and stopped at a rest stop to meet another fireman who had some parts for the truck to pass on to us. In the heavy traffic it was tempting to use the lights and siren, but being the virtuous guys that we are, we resisted! Then on to Perkasie, PA, by 7 pm. where we spent the evening and night at the home of our good friends Virgil and Sylvia Miller.

The next morning we left early and drove back to VT. Virginia had kept the neighbors informed so that virtually the whole village turned out on the green for our arrival at 4 pm with lights flashing and siren wailing! It was a moment to remember for a long time.

P.S. The mini-pumper is a 1997 Ford F-450 4x4 diesel, beautiful red with white trim and lots of chrome. It had a bit over 17,000 miles on it and we added 610.

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## Leah Beidler Goes to Haiti

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On Sunday morning, October 11, we enjoyed Leah Beidler's presentation about her ministry in Haiti. We learned what she has been doing with Camp Hope during the summer, and her plans to return to minister in the slums of Cite Soleil in November. Our individual response to the need in Haiti has been enough to enable Leah to bring 50 new Creole Bibles with her when she travels to Haiti on November 3. She, along with her sister, Caitlin, plan to be living, working, and loving in the slums of Cite Soleil, Haiti for two weeks. Here is some of what Leah shared in a recent email:

Well, back for another round of Haiti, this time we are changing it up a little. This time around [we] will be traveling to Haiti by ourselves and we will be heading into an area that [is called] the biggest, poorest, most dangerous slum in the Western Hemisphere. Cite Soleil.

My sister and I have had the desire and prayer to get into this city since 2007 and it is by God's grace and love that he randomly connected us with a woman one night in Port au Prince. We got stuck in Port au Prince one night because our plane could not fly out, and we had the neatest conversation with this woman. It was [just] this year that we decided to try and find her by the Internet; we recalled her name was Tammy, but that was it. We found her, and through God's amazing provision we are going.

The questions have poured in, but in all of it I have the beauty of knowing that this is what the Lord has been planning for the last two years. In the time of a month, the Lord has somehow provided enough money for us to buy paint, help with the hotel fees and car rental and bring in desired supplies. The Lord has brought sweet people into my life to encourage this vision and pour into the vision and my heart, it has truly been a blessed past couple of months for me personally. There have been constant reminders of God's sweet blessings on us. So when I have been reading the facts, the statistics on the gangs in Cite Soleil, I honestly feel like I cannot be shaken because it has been so neat to see how the Lord has put this together like a puzzle.

During our time, Caitlin will be painting a water tank that Tammy just had put in for the town. It is the first clean water tank for that part of the slum. Imagine, in a slum, dirty, garbage everywhere, in the distance seeing a vibrant, colorful, joyful mural. Can't wait. I will be doing what I love, holding children and playing, and will also be doing my best to translate for my sister and trying to get into the clinic to help distribute medicine.

I just want to write and ask for prayers in the upcoming month. Pray for the paint we are carrying over, all 99 pounds. Better start hitting the gym. Pray that customs does not give us a hard time. Pray for the painting Caitlin will be painting. It will be on a water tank and because there is water inside the paint does not stick as well so she is using a new technique. Pray for vision for Caitlin as she paints. Pray for our hands that we may be light to the city in some small way. Pray for my language, as once again I will have to practice Creole. Pray for safety and wisdom when we are out of our comfort zone. Pray for the rest of the team that is going. Pray that the clinic may be able to serve people, but also be a reflection of God's love. Pray most for the people of Haiti.

I was reading in Isaiah 60 the other day, The Future Glory for Jerusalem, and this verse rang true and created such a beautiful vision for the country of Haiti: *Isaiah 60:18 Peace and righteousness will be your leaders! Violence will disappear from your land; the desolation and destruction of war will end. Salvation will surround you like city walls and praise will be on the lips of all who enter there.*

I finished reading that verse and thought about the beauty of redemption, and it became a prayer for Cite Soleil, Haiti, and Passe Catabois; that praise would be on the lips of all who enter there. I ask that you pray for the people, that during a time of oppression, brokenness, hunger, sickness, death, that somehow in it all they may see God's amazing love and grace for their lives and that they may find hope in HIM alone.

I love you all and thank you again for all your support and prayers in our efforts in going to Haiti.

Seek His Face, Leah

If you would like to learn more about Leah's ministry in Haiti, visit her website

[www.camphopehaiti.blogspot.com](http://www.camphopehaiti.blogspot.com), or see the youtube video of Tammy's non-profit "Help Tammy Help Haiti" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kzjt-mthnTU>

## Schedule for November

**Each Sunday morning:** 9:30 am – Worship Service  
 10:45 am – Coffee and Fellowship  
 11:00 am – Sunday School

### November

- 1 Daylight Saving Time ends = “fall back”
- 7 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast @ *Eaton’s Sugar House, Bethel*
- 14 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast @ *New York Bagels & Café – Penney’s/Kohl’s plaza*
- 15 9:00 am – Communion Service  
 12:30 pm – Leadership Team meeting
- 20 7:00 pm – Pastoral Care Team Meeting
- 22 9:30 am – Ekklesia/Thanksgiving Service
- 29 9:30 am – Song Service

### Birthdays in November

|                            |                   |                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Christopher John McCrory | 9 Emily Glick     | 17 Rosalind Andreas |
| 5 Dave Swanson             | 15 Amelia Cormier | 22 Allison Good     |
| 8 Toby Deitrich            | 16 Bob Collins    | 23 Gabrielle Webber |

### Childcare

| November |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| 3        | Carie Good         |
| 8        | Dave/Caren Swanson |
| 15       | Jane Glick         |
| 22       | Janet North        |
| 29       | Nancy Pejouhy      |

### Song Leaders

| November |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| 1        | Virginia Schlabach |
| 8        | Carmeleta Beidler  |
| 15       | Omar Zook          |
| 22       | Allison Good       |
| 29       | Janet North        |

### Coffee

| November |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| 1        | Abner Schlabach |
| 8        | Ken/Jane Glick  |
| 15       | Janet North     |
| 22       | Mary Guntz      |
| 29       | Nancy Pejouhy   |

### Cleaning

| November |         |
|----------|---------|
| 7        | Collins |
| 14       | Collins |
| 21       | Cox     |
| 28       | Cox     |

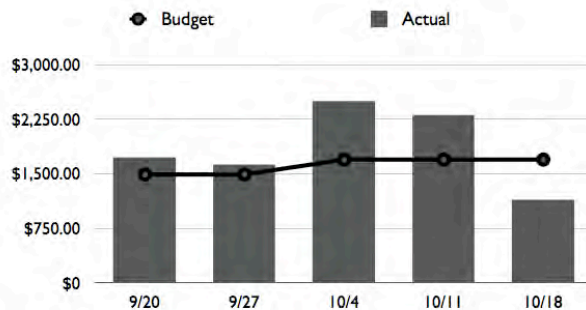
## Treasurer’s Report

Thanks to everyone for their participation in our Annual Meeting, take 2! After a lot of very good discussion, we decided to include our giving in the budget for the new quarter. Accordingly, our new weekly budget goal has gone from \$1,490 up to \$1,695 starting on Sunday, October 4. - *Tim Good*

### Taftsville Tally

| Sept       | Attendance | Offering Budget | Offering Actual |
|------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 20         | 56         | \$2,360.00      | \$1,725.00      |
| 27         | 55         | \$2,145.00      | \$1,625.00      |
| <b>Oct</b> |            |                 |                 |
| 4          | 62         | \$1,695.00      | \$2,498.00      |
| 11         | 56         | \$1,695.00      | \$2,307.00      |
| 18         | 50         | \$1,695.00      | \$1,143.00      |

### Weekly Offering



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## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

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*Do you remember when...*

### 40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*November 4, 1969*

Homer Welch presented the idea of a coffee shop outreach. "...it might be something for the future," he said.

*November 4, 1969*

Matthew Watson will be unable to plow snow for us this winter. He suggested a Mr. Howe in the village who might be available.

### 35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*November 5, 1974*

The fence beside the church lot, which we planned to replace, will cost more than originally planned. This project will be put off until spring.

### 30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*November 13, 1979*

Planned improvements to the building in the coming months will include replacing the front doors with a more air-tight assembly, lowering the entry ceiling, and replacing the entrance carpet.

*November 11, 1979*

We are happy to welcome Luke Martin who will be sharing with us his experiences in Viet Nam.

### 25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*November 4, 1984*

Murray Beidler reported on the newly formed "Housing Concern Group". This winter they will help renovate an apartment in WRJ, and visit a Habitat for Humanity effort.

*November 11, 1984*

A group from 'The Fold' led worship at Taftsville. An honorarium of \$300 is approved to help support this ministry.

### 20 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*November 13, 1989*

Thanks to Richard Moon and Dave and Carmeleta Beidler for organizing activities for the youth group.

### 15 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*November 22, 1994*

There is not enough time between church and Sunday School for those who leave to pick up children. We will lengthen the time to one-half hour and have a coffee break. This is on a trial basis. Ruth will order coffee and a coffeepot.

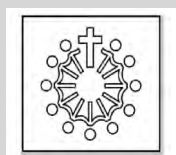
### 10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*November 7, 1999*

We will have a potluck meal after church, and spend some time talking about what direction we should take for the future of the 10,000 Villages sale. Please plan to attend if you can.

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## Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship



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

**Randy Good, Pastor**

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

Send your contributions for

**"The Taftsville Chapel Current" to:**

[rdjcollins@mac.com](mailto:rdjcollins@mac.com)

OR slip a note in my church mailbox

OR contact a Newsletter Staff Member:

Carie Good, Janet North, and Virginia Schlabach