



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

December 2005

"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

Advent: The season of waiting for the promised arrival of the Messiah.

Along with Easter, Advent is an especially good time to observe and reflect on God's purposes – both with us and for us. It is a good time to take a close look at our current connection, or disconnection, with God. Where does the beginning of this Advent find you: Enjoying a vital and genuine relationship with God, or somewhere else...distant, unmoved, spiritually alone? If the first is true, rejoice and enjoy. If the second is true, what happens next?

"Oh, that You would tear open the heavens and come down – not for a quiet chat but in a way that is potent and unmistakable. Come down here in a way that changes things, me included, like nothing else possibly can. Surprise us! Have your way!" (Isa.64: 1- 3 paraphrase). Isaiah's plea is a good one in the face of disconnection in all its forms. It reflects the waiting and the longing to have God act as only God can. The bad news is that we often don't quite trust Him to actually do this, or we are pretty nervous about how awful it will be if He does. We're tempted to look for other ways to get by without Him, and life ends up feeling just like that: getting by without Him.

The good news is that it is already His good purpose to break through our isolation and fear and arrogance in unstoppable ways. Starting with the tearing open of the heavens with the birth of His son, God is intent on changing everything, especially the causes of our disconnection. Our challenge is to look for Him to do it. *"Lift up your heads, O gates, lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in."* (Psalm 24:7)

This Advent our invitation is to wait well, and settle for nothing less than His presence. Look for God to be Surprising, Faithful, Restoring, Inviting, and Unimaginable. A daily scripture-reading guide has been provided (in your mail boxes) as a "door opener" for this Advent. Reflect, observe and risk being expectant. His purposes are powerful and kind, both tender and unstoppable.

"For as the rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout and furnish seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

So shall My Word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in that for which I sent it." Isa.55: 10-11



Blessings! Randy

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Artwork and Illustrations
by Lynda Knisley



*Advent Collage

Isaiah 55: 11

“So shall my word be
That goeth forth
Out of my mouth;
it shall not return unto me void,
but it shall accomplish
that which I please,
and it shall prosper
in the thing where unto I sent it.”

When People in the Bible, like Job, voiced doubts about the goodness of God, he pointed to an inexhaustible list of familiar, tangible things He had created. When we interpret a somewhat abstract idea, like Is. 55:11 in artwork, whatever comes is “for the sake of remembrance and understanding.” (Luther)

As I noticed in the book *The Substance of Things Seen, Art, Faith, and the Christian Community* by Robin Jensen “Our imagination is a receptive organ and therefore, a way we engage with the divine.” I agree. When God reveals His goodness in the things we can touch and see...just imagine! Imagine what He has created that we cannot yet touch and see. “Receive and engage with the divine.”

Lynda Knisley

*This *Advent Collage* by Artist and Teacher, Lynda Kinsley is displayed on the front wall of our worship gathering room during the season of Advent. Thank you Lynda, for sharing this gift with the congregation.

Second Hour for Pre-K through 6th Grade in 2006

Starting in January, we will be changing the format of our classes for this age group. We will have all ages together for a story and singing. We will then split up into 3 age groups for activities, games, practicing Bible Skills, etc. Marybeth Beck and Jan Collins are coordinating the program, but they need storytellers and activity leaders. There is a sign-up sheet in the Millen Room listing the subject for each Sunday of this quarter. Please consider helping for a Sunday or two, or for a month. Materials will be provided, but your creativity is welcome.

The curriculum is entitled, **GETTING FAMILIAR WITH THE BIBLE**. For the month of January we will be looking at how we got the Bible, how it is organized, learning how to use the Bible, connecting the Old and New Testaments, memorization and more. In February we will have stories from the Old Testament, and in March, stories from the New Testament.

58. CHRISTMAS GIFTS STACK-A-WORD

These are some of the “Christmas gifts” we receive by accepting the gift Jesus came to give us.

Discover what these gifts are by looking up the following verses:

ACROSS

- 4. John 14:16
- 7. John 10:10
- 8. John 14:27
- 9. John 3:16
- 10. Isaiah 60:1a

DOWN

- 1. Matthew 11:29
- 2. Psalm 51:12
- 3. Isaiah 40:31
- 5. John 14:2
- 6. Psalm 121:2

Bits and Pieces

We Have a Website!

The web address is

<http://www.taftsvillechapel.org>

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

Check it out!

Thank you, Toby Dietrich, for being our webmaster.

Now Playing at Taftsville

"Movie Nite" continues with "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". Join us on Friday, Dec. 9th at 6pm for a semi-serious look at a seriously silly movie. Bring a friend, bring a snack, and relax. Popcorn provided! See you there.

Candlelighters

- **There will be a brunch at Mary Guntz's on December 10th at 10:00 am. Also quilting** for all interested after the brunch. This quilt is one that will be sold at the Bethany Birches Camp Auction next September. Those interested in coming and want to bring something for the brunch contact Mary Guntz, but we do not need everyone to bring food. Come if you can for fellowship, food and quilting.
- **Quilting** at Mary Guntz's house on December 13 and 20, both Tuesday evenings.

You're invited to Laura's Birthday Party

December 11th, 2-6pm at Laura Beilder's house
(directions - 802-295-3812)

Bring items to make a school kit:

- Four #2 pencils
- 4 one-subject 70-90 page notebooks
- Ruler with both centimeters and inches
- Box of 12 to 24 colored pencils
- Large eraser

Refreshments will be served.

The Christmas tree is in place in the Millen Room

to hang your donations of hats, mittens, gloves and stockings. They will then be taken to PATH, a social services organization in White River Jct. Lets load up the tree!

Expression of Gratitude

Dear Friend of The Haven,

With the incredible scale of some of the recent calamities around the world that have impacted hundreds of thousands of people at a time, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. Surely we can't help everyone but we can manage to help one person at a time.

Each night, the Haven is home to eight families, some 30 people including 18 children. These families typically stay with us for 2 to 3 month before securing their own housing. On a typical day at the Haven, 13 families receive a week's worth of groceries from our Food Shelf. Another 29 families come in for free bread and fresh produce. 15 families find something in our Clothing Room. And a dozen currently or formerly homeless children spend a couple of hours after school in our "Homework Club". The use of our Food Shelf is up over 15% in each of the past four years. I believe this can be attributed to the fact that wages for lower income workers are not growing nearly as much as expenses for rent and, lately, gasoline and heating fuel. We expect the Food Shelf to be very busy this winter.

We would not be here without you -- and we never forget that. We are your hands and feet, meeting those who are struggling at their point of need. Your continuing support ensures we will be here for families in need -- one person at a time. Thank you for your generous contributions to our Food Shelf.

With warmest regards,
Tom Ketteridge, Managing Director

Responses to the "NOVEMBER QUESTION OF THE MONTH"

What do you prefer during the Second Hour?

35% have discussion and study around a current topic

25% have discussion/ response to sermon topic of the day

15% continue coffee and conversation

10% discuss published material

10% have systematic Bible study teaching

We had a total of 35% responding to the November question



Fill out your
form today &
bring to church!

*** SEE BOTTOM OF PAGE 5 FOR
"DECEMBER QUESTION OF THE MONTH"**

Indonesia – Thanks and Update on “Health in Harmony”

Dear Taftsville Church,

Thank you all so much for your incredibly generous donation to the medical lab that we will use to provide medical care to the poor here in Indonesia. Cam and I arrived last week and we feel so blessed to be able to work here. We are setting up a city base now and will then do various trips to evaluate sites for the hospital we plan to start.

Remember you are all welcome to come visit anytime!

Blessings, *Kinari & Cam Webb*
Address: Kotak POS 223
Boyer 16002
INDONESIA

(The following was taken from an E-mail dated November 29th from Kinari)

Happy Holidays! Getting up on Thanksgiving morning and walking down to the edge of the river where we usually buy our rice-porridge breakfast, I was particularly struck by how thankful I need to be for my life. Early in the morning, all the people without water in their homes go down and bathe in the river, brush their teeth and, of course, use the rest room. With minimal environmental regulations, the water is heavily polluted with not only human, but also industrial waste. Watching this scene reminded me again that it is not a trade-off. Advocating for both human and environmental health is beneficial to all. Sometimes I am overwhelmed by the massive level of poverty and environmental degradation here and wonder how we can make a difference. I remember, though, that rivers also burned in the United States not too long ago and that with education and advocacy small changes have been made. This Thanksgiving we are so grateful that a twelve-year dream of coming back to Indonesia to try and do a small part in improving the health of people and the natural environment seems to be coming to fruition. Mostly we are thankful for all of you who have each helped so much with love, support, financial help, advice, and many hard hours of work.

I will soon be off to evaluate our first site. On the 5th of December, my friend, Dr. Irene and I are leaving for 10 days to Central Kalimantan where we will evaluate another site for the hospital and environmental project. The location is not far from rain forest that is still preserved and very much

needs health care. We will take a boat up-river for 10 hours in order to get to the location. I have been advised by a friend who is an Indonesian doctor and has worked in many rural sites to pay particular attention to the possibilities for a hydroelectric system. He says that one should not rely on government-provided electricity (if there is any) as it is too unreliable for a hospital and that generators in the dry-season can be very expensive. He says to worry less about road access. That can be built, a good waterfall (or big drop for a river), can't be. So we are almost off, to talk to villages about their interest in partnering with us, feasibility of building in the area, and to look at waterfalls!

The first two weeks in January we will go to East Kalimantan. We have also been negotiating with a hospital in West Borneo that I have worked at before to see how we can best work together. So far our discussions have been very encouraging. We have also been working hard on the web site. We will launch it in January and look forward to showing it to you.

If, during this holiday season, you feel that you would like to help support our work, we would be very grateful. At the moment, we are seeking to raise money to help fund the needs assessment phase and then also begin collecting money to establish the hospital.

Health in Harmony is now incorporated and our lawyers are in the process of seeking tax-exempt status for the organization. This process takes several months, but once received will be retroactive to the date of incorporation. Checks can be made out to *Health in Harmony* and sent to: Health In Harmony, 351 Pleasant Street, Suite B #117, Northampton, MA 01060

We cherish your prayers, emails and kind thoughts. Thank you again for all the help so far.

Blessings, *Kinari*

The mission of “Health in Harmony” is to join with rural Indonesian communities in improving the health of people and the natural environment by providing improved access to medical care, sharing empowering knowledge, and advocating for the inherent value of all life.

Schedule for December

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

**Please note that starting in January, snacks for children will not be provided by the teachers.
 Hot chocolate or juice boxes will be provided during Coffee and Fellowship. If you want to bring snacks for your children, or to share with everyone, you are welcome to do so.*

- Dec. 3** 7:00am – Men’s Breakfast / *Eaton’s Sugar House*
9 6:00pm – Movie Night “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” / *Church*
10 10:00am – Women’s Brunch and Quilting / *Mary Guntz’s*
11 2-6:00pm – Laura Beidler’s Birthday Party & collecting MCC School Kits / *Laura’s House*
13 & 20 7:00 pm – Quilting / *Mary Guntz’s*
18 6:30 pm – Christmas Caroling in Taftsville village / cookies and hot chocolate following
24 NO Christmas Eve Service.
You are encouraged to attend a church service in your local community
25 10:00am – Worship Service / NO SECOND HOUR
Birthday Song and offering for November and December
- Jan. 1** 9:30am – Worship Service
 11:00am – Second Hour / 1st Sunday with new class structure for pre-K through 6th grade
3 Deadline for January issue of *Taftsville Chapel Current*

December Birthdays

2 nd Judy McCrory	17 th Vera Fogg
4 th Janet North	18 th Hunter Cox
6 th Randy Good	22 nd Joanna Pejouhy
8 th Micah Schlabach	23 rd Bonita Aloisio
11 th Laura Beidler	24 th Jane Dandurand
13 th Chuck Kidwell	29 th Jan Collins

December Anniversaries

21st Kevin & Karen Cox
 Toby & Rebecca Deitrich

Song Leaders for December

4th Carmeleta Beidler
 11th Rebekah Deitrich
 18th Richard Glick
 25th Omar Zook

December Cleaning Schedule

4th Snader
 11th Pejouhy
 18th Pejouhy
 25th Shaw

December Childcare Schedule

4th Laura Beidler
 11th Carmeleta Beidler
 18th Nancy Pejouhy
 25th Carie Good

Taftsville Tally	
Attendance	Offering
Oct. 30 th ----- ?	----- \$1,110.80
Nov. 6 th ----- 45	----- 1,640.97
13 th ----- 39	----- 1,417.00
20 th ----- 48	----- 1,292.25
<i>Thanksgiving offering to SEVCA</i>	
<i>for heating assistance ----- 3,056.00</i>	
27 th ----- 46	Offering total will be in January 06 issue

“DECEMBER QUESTION OF THE MONTH” (let’s try for 100% response!!)

(Please mark your responses, say more if you’d like, tear off this section, and deposit in the White Box)

Our family includes Santa Claus in our Christmas celebration.

____ Yes

____ No

____ Uncertain

Comments _____

Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

35 Years Ago This Month

December 8, 1970

A unanimous vote was given for a person outside Taftsville congregation to be considered for the new minister. Brother Yoder will be asked to speak to Arden Godshall about the possibility of leading this congregation.

December 23, 1970

Congratulations to Janice and Omar Zook who welcomed a baby girl, Cynthia Noel.

30 Years Ago This Month

December 14, 1975

Cliff and Zelda Knisley will present their Christmas slide show at 4:00pm.

December 31, 1975

There will be a New Year's Eve Party with communion held at the church. Joanna and Ruth Ann are planning the activities.

25 Years Ago This Month

December 21, 1980

The committee for planning a candlelight service is Dennie and Marie Hackman, Vera Fogg and Darlene Snader.

December 23, 1980

Mary Alderfer, Cindy Zook and Melinda Alderfer shared Instrumental Selections at the Christmas Service.

20 Years Ago This Month

December 8, 1985

The men of our congregation will get together to make wooden toys for the Christmas project in White River.

10 Years Ago This Month

December 1, 1995

The first payment for the new handicapped lift project is due. Weekly giving will need to increase for the next 5 year to cover this financing.

*Send your contributions for
"The Taftsville Chapel Current" to:*

Janice.g.collins@valley.net

OR 802-295-5123

OR slip a note in my church mailbox

Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship

is located in the village of Taftsville,
one block south of Route 4 on Happy Valley Road.

Randy Good, pastor
(802) 457-1516

Taftsville Chapel

P O Box 44

Taftsville, Vermont 05073

