

# 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

November 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*

## Leadership Team Update

On October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Leadership team gathered for a mini retreat at Ottaquechee Farm to continue thinking about plural leadership at Taftsville. To help us along with this, we invited Donella Clemens (our Conference minister) and Ron Sawatsky (former Moderator of MC Canada, and now CEO of Rock Hill Community) to give input and feedback. We covered a wide range of topics related to team leadership: What works and what doesn't, what is healthy and sustainable, and how the team concept can best release the whole congregation in their various gifts. We also spent some time looking at the qualities of servant leaders and leadership styles, as well as various ways a pastor relates in a team setting. Over all, it was an affirming few days with helpful insights offered and a few areas of on-going discussion clarified.

As we continue to work out a good “team profile” (job description) for the Taftsville Handbook, several questions have been raised that we need some more input on from the congregation. How is the make-up of the team determined over time? Should there be term limits? What should the affirmation process look like?

One thing that we do know now is that the Leadership team is neither a replacement for nor independent of the Church Council. The Leadership team is concerned for the *spiritual* health and direction of the fellowship, especially in the areas of teaching, prayer and worship. It isn't a top-down decision making group, but more a “big target” for everyone in the fellowship to share their ideas and callings. The hope is to continue to see new visions emerge from the congregation that actually come into being.

Some feedback has been received by the “Seventh Member” of the team (the small white box in the Millen Room - Thanks!) about the make-up of the team including individuals and not just couples. We would like to ask the congregation to start thinking and praying about possible individuals to serve on the team, as well as how the discernment process would proceed. When we first started the team conversation a few years ago, there was a brief description of the kind of gifting to be aware of for potential Leadership team members. It said, in part:

*“appointed...elders, discerners, shepherds – whatever word works for you. These should be people who you would trust with your story, your joys and your disappointments, strong, but not judgmental, kind, but not uninvolved. These should be people who you sense are spiritually mature and grounded, and yet always hungry to grow and learn. They are people who let Jesus' peace rule in their hearts, but aren't afraid of messiness. These would be people who have a real relationship with Jesus, certainly not shortcoming free, but close. They are people who you sense long to hear and obey Jesus themselves, not just know doctrine about Him. These should be people who you sense enjoy walking close to Him. This could be a couple or two, or an individual or two...”*

More than anything else, the Leadership team continues to depend on your feedback, comments and prayers. We feel encouraged by how it is going so far – please let us know what you think.

Blessings! Randy

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### Expression of Gratitude

We went to express our gratitude for all your thoughts, prayers, cards, concern and love you have shown to us during the recent death of my Mother, Esther Histan in PA. We felt your prayers with us and really appreciated our brothers and sisters here at Taftsville standing beside us in spirit. Thank you also for the flowers which Randy and Carie brought to us upon our returning home from the funeral. May God bless you all for caring for us in our time of loss.

Love and Blessings to all, *Marie and Dennie*

### A Note From The Hospitality Committee:

Greetings! Our committee is officially in charge of organizing meals for anyone that is in need. This includes everything from a new baby to sickness. If you would like to make us aware of someone in our body that could use some meals, please contact Rebekah Deitrich via phone (802)-295-0907 or email [bekahd@sover.net](mailto:bekahd@sover.net). Thanks for helping us make sure that no one is overlooked!

### Update from Deborah and Chuck Kidwell

In a recent phone call to Lynda Knisley, Deborah relayed that, overall, they are seeing God working/leading in their lives. However, some unexpected improvements to their new home (new furnace, insulation) have taken up more of their time than they had planned on. Chuck has had some potential gallery contacts, which is exciting. Deborah said they are still looking for a church *where people sing*. They also miss having a Border's Bookstore in the area. Keep both of them in your prayers.

### Thanksgiving Special Offering - November 20th

This year's offering will go to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA). SEVCA is an organization that "provides programs and opportunities for individuals and families in Windham and Windsor counties to obtain a sustainable life and to develop human resources." This includes helping local needy households with their heating this winter. SEVCA will place this money in a discretionary fund for the Upper Valley area (our request). In their reviews of the local heating needs, they will choose the most needy individuals and use the money to purchase oil, propane, wood, or electricity - whichever the household uses for heat. They will identify the source of the gift to the recipients. Their web site states, "SEVCA envisions a society in which all

people participate in, contribute to and are valued by their communities, thereby increasing the health and vitality of both those communities and individuals." SEVCA is delighted that we are participating in their program to meet the needs of the community. Please consider a generous gift for our neighbors in need on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Make your check payable to Taftsville Chapel with *Thanksgiving Offering* noted on memo line.

### Note Change: Separate Cape Town, SA Newsletter

Please note that we will not include a contribution from Cape Town, SA starting with this issue of The Current. Deb du Plessis will be creating a separate newsletter page that we will insert into The Taftsville Chapel Current.

### Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) Help Needed in Mississippi

Ted and Elinor Shattuck are directing an MDS project in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina in Mississippi. Dale Snader is coordinating a group of 12 to 15 volunteers from Taftsville Chapel and Bethany Mennonite to go and help with this project during the week of January 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be a van available for this trip. Because this trip is 1700 miles one way, the leaving and returning dates are tentatively set for Thursday, January 5 through Tuesday, January 17. If you are interested in volunteering for this project, please contact Dale Snader at 802-295-5383 or [ddsnader@aol.com](mailto:ddsnader@aol.com) or see him at church.

### Slow Down: Save Gas

As a rule of thumb, "you can assume that each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional \$0.21 per gallon for gas," says the website <http://www.fueleconomy.gov>. You cannot do anything about the rising and fluctuating price of gas. But, you can change other things that will help save money today and, ultimately, save gas for the future. **The major way to save: go slower.** Another benefit of slowing down, is that you are less stressed driving, less aggressive, and more laid back. We're dealing with something that is in limited supply. Oil will eventually run out. We can support measures to find alternatives to gasoline, along with conserving every way we can. Smart people will conserve knowing that ultimately there will be more left for the future. God said that humans were to be caretakers of this great earth.

*by Melodie Davis*

Taken from <http://www.thirdway.com> Menno Media 10/21/05

*It was noticed recently that a church mouse has taken up residence in our building and is apparently spending time reading from our church library. He (or she) may have been eavesdropping on a recent conversation, but evidently responded with an answer, which was discovered in the White Box. If you have any questions for our resident Churchmouse, address them to her (or him) and drop them off in the White Box.*

**Dear Churchmouse:**

I feel like I am a good Christian, and I pray, but it seems like God isn't listening. Why doesn't God answer my prayers?

**Dear Saint:**

When prayer seems to be unanswered, beware of trying to fix blame, either on God or yourself. You will find there is a reason that is deep instruction to you, not to anyone else. Think of the last thing you prayed about – were you devoted to your desire or to God? Determined to get something from God, or to get God Himself? Prayer is not simply getting things from God; that is a most initial form of prayer. Prayer is getting into perfect communion with God. The point of asking is that you may get to know God better. If we pray because we want answers, we will get huffed with God. The answers come every time, but not always in the way we expect, and our spiritual huff shows a refusal to identify ourselves with Our Lord in prayer. We are not here to move God to answer prayer; we are here to be living monuments of God's grace.

It is not part of the life of a natural man to pray. If we do not pray, it is not our natural life that suffers; but the life of the Son of God in us, which is nourished not by food, but by prayer. When a person is born from above, the life of the Son of God is born in him, and he can either starve that life or nourish it. Prayer is the way the life of God is nourished.

Do I pray only when things have gone wrong, when there is a disturbance somewhere? I have to learn to identify myself with my Lord in ways some of us have not begun to learn as yet. Prayer with most of us is pious platitude, a matter of emotion, or mystical communion. This is like producing spiritual fogs. It is no use praying unless we are coming with the open and trusting attitude of a good child of God, with the life of the Son of God being formed in us.

God always hears the prayers of His Son, and if the Son of God is formed in me, the Father will always hear my prayers. Are we living in such human dependence upon Jesus Christ that His life is being manifested moment by moment?

Jesus never mentioned unanswered prayer; He had the boundless certainty that prayer is always answered. Have we, by the Spirit, the same certainty that Jesus had about prayer? God always answers prayer in the best way, every time, although the immediate answer is not always in the way we want it. The manifestation of the answer in time is a matter of God's sovereignty. Time is nothing to God. If Jesus Christ is bringing you into the understanding that prayer is for the glorifying of His Father, He will give you the first sign of His intimacy – silence. God wants to answer your prayers and give out the blessings you ask for. Often God's silences are His answers. His silence is the sign that He is bringing you into a marvelous understanding of Himself. If God has given you a silence, praise Him. God has trusted you in the most intimate way possible, with an absolute silence, not of despair, but of pleasure, because He saw that you could stand a bigger revelation.

So do not think only that "prayer changes things", but also that prayer changes *me* and I change things. Prayer is not so much a means of altering things externally, but of working wonders in the very nature of a saint. Then, as we become identified with the life of the Son of God in us, God responds to *us* as His children when we pray, not to our wordy prayers. Then, indeed, we begin to see God's answers.

*Compiled from entries of March 20, May 26, Aug 6, Aug 7, Aug 9, Aug 24, Aug 28, Sept 16, Oct 11  
My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers*

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## Off to Indonesia

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Dear friends,

We have been in a flurry of activity packing up our entire life in preparation for our move to Indonesia, but we also had some wonderful quiet time in the rain forest in French Guyana. For the first time since beginning my medical education seven years ago, I was able to accompany my husband on one of his many trips to rain forests around the world. Having so much quiet time in the beauty of a forest with unbelievable diversity helped prepare us for our move to Indonesia. It also strengthened me in my goal to try and help promote human and environmental health in Indonesia. As many of you know, it is our dream to establish a rural hospital in Indonesia to serve the very poor and to help preserve the rain forest through providing low-cost, high quality health care and by promoting ecologically friendly economic development. Much progress has been made towards this goal since my last email. We have a name: **Health in Harmony**, a mission statement (see below\*) and a business model. Thanks to the generous support of so many of you, we have received over 100 boxes of equipment and supplies worth hundreds of thousands of dollars and have been able to purchase a wonderful portable medical lab for \$5,500.

We are leaving the US Friday, Oct 21st and plan to spend the next 9 months in negotiation with communities in East Borneo, Central Borneo, Sumatra, Sumba and Papua to find a home for the hospital. Many meetings have already been set up.

We are looking for a site near rain forest that is in need of medical care, and has strong community support for the project. We hope to begin construction on the hospital a year from now. We will have a city base in Bogor on the island of Java and will email when we have an address.

Of course building a hospital and shipping supplies will require resources and thankfully a group of supportive volunteers are helping to establish an independent United States based non-profit organization which will help raise funds, coordinate volunteers, and organize donations for the hospital and environmental work in Indonesia. Our goal is to incorporate in November, at which time we will be able to accept donations. The web site will be up and running next month (future location: [www.healthinharmony.org](http://www.healthinharmony.org)).

Thank you all again for your continued support, we have been so amazed and overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity from so many people. With your ongoing encouragement, support, interest, love, and possible donations in the future, I know, we can do wonderful work together.

Blessings, *Kinari Webb*

### **\*Mission Statement**

*Our mission 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.*

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## Responses to the "OCTOBER QUESTION OF THE MONTH"

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### **For my personal spiritual growth I prefer:**

35% indicated we turn to a devotional or inspirational type book


28% prefer to read the Bible

21% prefer music

7% prefer to listen to teachings

7% prefer a spiritual director

*We had a total of 17% responding to the September question*



Fill out your form today & bring to church!

**\* SEE BOTTOM OF NEXT PAGE FOR "NOVEMBER QUESTION OF THE MONTH"**

## Schedule for November

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

- Nov. 5 7:00am - Men's Breakfast / Eaton's Sugar House  
 10:00am - Fall Clean-up Day at Church  
 6 9:30am - Service - Article 19 (Marriage, family and Singleness) \*Sermon by Kerry Beck  
 11&12 Franconia Conference Assembly (Randy & Carie attending)  
 12 7:30am - Women's Breakfast / Panera  
 13 9:30am - Service - Article 22 (Peace, Justice & Non-resistance) \*Sermon by Omar Zook  
 16 7:00 pm - Church Council Meeting / Church  
 20 9:30am - Thanksgiving Service & Special Offering (see page 2 under Bits & Pieces)  
 Article 21 (Stewardship) Sermon by Randy Good  
 12:00pm - Potluck following 2nd hour / church basement  
 27 9:30am - Service - First Sunday of Advent  
 28 Deadline for December issue of Taftsville Chapel Current  
 30 7:00pm - Pastoral Care Team Meeting

\*Randy and Carie will be away on vacation the 1st two weeks in November

### November Birthdays

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 2nd Janet Aloisio   | 16th Bob Collins      |
| 8th Toby Deitrich   | 21st Murray Beidler   |
| 9th Emily Glick     | 22nd Gian Aloisio     |
| 15th Amelia Cormier | 23rd Gabrielle Webber |

### November Anniversaries

- 21st Chuck & Deborah Kidwell

NOTE: I apologize if your birthday or anniversary was missed. Please notify me of your date so that we can include you next year. Jan Collins, Editor

### Song Leaders for November

- 6th Jan Zook  
 13th Karen Cox  
 20th Rebekah Deitrich  
 27th Janet North

### November Cleaning Schedule

- 6th North/Schlabach  
 13th Zook  
 20th Zook  
 27th Snader

Taftsville Tally		
	Attendance	Offering
Oct. 2nd	66	\$2,152.25
9th	54	\$1,297.11
16th	42	\$1,642.50
23rd	46	\$1,928.05
30th	Look for tally in Dec. issue	

**A NITE AT THE MOVIES**  
**Friday, December 9th**  
**6-10:00PM**  
**Taftsville Chapel**

**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**  
*A heavy-duty look at a light-duty movie!*

**COME READY TO SNACK & SHARE**

*Due to the Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year Holidays, we will combine the November and December Movie Nites and have one movie on December 9th.*

## "NOVEMBER QUESTION OF THE MONTH"

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

During the Second Hour, I would prefer to:

- a) leave
- b) continue coffee and conversation
- c) teach a children's class
- d) discuss and study published material (i.e. Builder, Pathways, etc)
- e) have discussion and study around a current topic (like we are doing now)
- f) have discussion / response to sermon topic of the day
- g) have systematic Bible study teaching

Please add any suggestions for 2nd Hour \_\_\_\_\_

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## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

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### 35 Years Ago This Month

*November 8, 1970*

We extend our sympathy to the Millen family in the loss of their husband and father, Jim.

*November 19, 1970*

Candlelighters will be meeting at the home of Joanna Beidler. We will be making Food Baskets for needy families and decorated soap ornaments for each patient at the Hillside Manor Home

### 30 Years Ago This Month

*November 4, 1975*

After a few estimated figures related to the cost of improving our building for a school, the consensus of the council was to actively look for land on which to build a new structure suitable for a church and school.

*November 23, 1975*

Each family is invited to bring something to contribute to the Worship and Praise part of the Thanksgiving service. Food items should also be brought.

### 25 Years Ago This Month

*November 9, 1980*

Each member of church council is to think of one family they might know personally that would appreciate a food basket.

### 20 Years Ago This Month

*November 19, 1985*

David is planning a reading contest of books from the church library. There will be prizes in three age groups.

### 15 Years Ago This Month

*November 18, 1990*

Sunday morning we will have Ken and Kass Seitz here to talk about Israel. An Israeli or Palestinian breakfast is also planned to start at 8:30.

### 10 Years Ago This Month

*November 8, 1995*

We voted to purchase the Church Music Copyright License, which will allow us to copy and use virtually any music we might choose.

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*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*

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### 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

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Taftsville Chapel  
P O Box 44  
Taftsville, Vermont 05073