



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 2006

"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

Jesus' Advent and the Perfect Storm

Meteorologists make their predictions about up-coming weather "events" by taking educated guesses. They gather all the data they can from satellite images, radar, infrared, past statistics and computer models, and then issue their forecast. Sometimes they're right, or close enough to right, for us to continue to consult them for information about how the weather might affect our plans.

Once in a great while meteorologists see a set of atmospheric information like they have never seen before. Certain conditions are just so and the computer models generate predictions that point to the high probability of a *significant* "event". The more unusual the set of observations and conditions, the more unique the potential outcome may be. For many meteorologists, observing a Perfect Storm is a once in a lifetime event.

All they can do though, is guess. And wait and see. Sometimes they are right and sometimes not, but they still keep their jobs and get up the next morning and try again to give us the information we need to think about how the weather may impact our lives.

The test for keeping not only your job, but also your life, for the Old Testament Prophets, was 100% accuracy all the time. (And we think we have pressured lives...) The primary calling of the Prophets was "forth-telling": Speaking the truth of God into the situation at hand and revealing His heart on the matter. Other times, the Holy Spirit would lead the Prophets into "fore-telling": The truth of God regarding the future.

So it was predicted about the Advent of Jesus Christ: A baby from the line of David, born in Bethlehem of Judea, living the way He did and doing the things He did while on earth, dying the way He did as our Redeemer and rising from death on the third day as He did, and being alive now making intercession for us as He is. The old Prophets foresaw it all in great detail and it's written down in Scripture for us to see.

When the fullness of time had come and all the conditions in the human and heavenly atmosphere were just so, Jesus did arrive: Exactly on time and to completely fulfill every prediction concerning Him. The Perfect Savior.

How does His Advent affect our plans today? How did it affect the plans of the people directly involved in the Biblical account? How are we alike in our need and our responses? Consider reading ahead the story in Luke 1 & 2 for our Advent season at Taftsville this year, and think about how Jesus' arrival impacted the lives of the characters involved. Maybe you will find yourself identifying with someone there, and Jesus will inform your plans as well in a new and fresh way.

Blessings!
Randy

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Dirty Old Stump

Why is there a dirty old stump in the front of our meeting place?

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
From his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him –
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and power,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
Isaiah 11:1-3a*

In I Samuel 16 we are told the story of David being chosen as Israel's future king. David is chosen from among the eight sons of Jesse. The stump of Jesse mentioned in the above passage from Isaiah refers to the ending of the Israelite kingdom of Judah, which was all but destroyed by the Assyrians, then later (586 B.C.) carried into captivity by the Babylonians. The Messiah would grow as a shoot from the stump of David's dynasty. The genealogy of Jesus, which is recorded in chapter, one of Matthew, emphasizes the importance of Jesus coming from the line of David – the stump of Jesse.

We think of the weeks before Christmas as the season of Advent; a time of waiting. This is figurative, of course, because we know that the promised Messiah has already come. For hundreds and hundreds of years throughout the Old Testament people waited for his coming. The four candles ascending the root of the old stump represent those centuries of waiting. The Christ candle on top of the stump will be lit on the last Sunday before Christmas. How blessed we are to live in the era of the green shoot from the stump of Jesse. This season celebrate the long-awaited coming of the Messiah into the world and his coming into your own life.

That is why there is a dirty old stump in the front of our meeting place.

First Coming

*God did not wait till the world was ready,
till... nations were at peace.
God came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.*

*God did not wait for the perfect time.
God came when the need was deep and great.
God dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. God did not wait*

*till hearts were pure. In joy God came
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
God came, and God's light would not go out.*

*God came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.*

*We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice;
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
God came with Love. Rejoice! Rejoice!*

- Madeleine L'Engle

Taftsville Tally

	Attendance	Offering
Oct. 29 th	56	\$2,307.30
Nov. 5 th	51	1,979.30
	Birthday/Library Offering	\$53.95
12 th	66	2,112.00
19 th	60	1,499.00
	Thanksgiving/Good Neighbor Clinic	-- \$1,222.61
26 th	42	765.00

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

Bits 'n Pieces

Youth Group Fundraisers

Our "San Jose Café" was a great success. Thank you all for your support.

By popular request, we will host another dinner in January. We'll keep you posted on the date.

We are currently working on our Taftsville Chapel Wall Calendar. We should have a sample and order forms ready soon.

You might be wondering about the strange-looking gourds scattered around the youth area. We are making birdhouses, flower arrangements and bird feeders. These might be just what you need for a Christmas present for that aunt who is so hard to please.

San Jose, here we come!

New Books in the Children and Youth Library

What is Heaven Like?
- Beverly Lewis

Here's Lily #1
Lily's in London #13
Lily's passport to Paris #14
- Nancy Rue

God Gave Us Christmas
- Lisa Tawn Bergren

Thank you from Esch Family

Dear Taftsville Family,
We have been overwhelmed by how generous you have been to us. The food, cards, gifts, money and words of support have touched us deeply. It's been humbling and very comforting at the same time. Thank you for truly acting as family to us over the time of Owen's birth and surgery, as well as sharing our continuing journey with Josiah. We've been blessed.

Thank you, *Sheldon, Monica, Josiah and Owen*

Quilters Needed...

...to help quilt this beautiful quilt pieced by Ruth Ann Glick to be sold at the 2007 Bethany Birches Benefit Auction. (You should see it in color.) Monday nights @ 7pm December 4, 11, & 18 if needed @ Mary Guntz's.



Angels tell the good news of Jesus' birth to shepherds.
Luke 2:8-20



Nativity Word Search

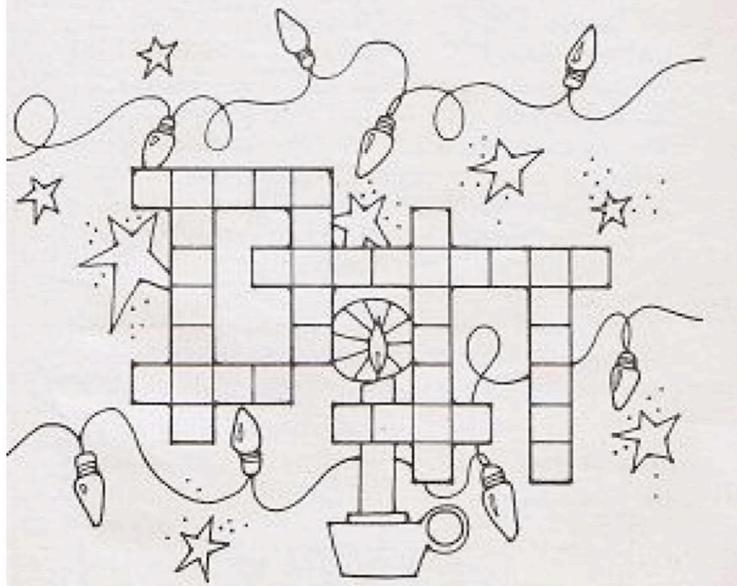
C A N O I T A V L A S D N S H S
 Q S H E P H E R D S R F A L L U
 R A T S A M T S I R H C T E J S
 N E M E S I W S H E E P I G O E
 J G N I K M A R Y G I U V N S J
 M O S Y I H X Q U R Q W I A E T
 D O N K E Y R E G N A M T D P M
 Z I L I N N K E E P E R Y O H F



- angels
- Christmas
- donkey
- innkeeper
- Jesus
- Joseph
- king
- manger
- Mary
- nativity
- salvation
- sheep
- shepherds
- star
- wisemen

Find the correct spaces for these "light" words:

- candle
- stars
- fireplace
- bulb
- glow
- shine
- sparkle
- twinkle



Jesus is born.
Luke 2:1-7



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: Dates and times for Christmas Caroling and Christmas Eve Service will be announced at a later date.

December 2 7:00 am - Men's Breakfast / *Farmer's Diner*
4 & 11 (18 if needed)
 7:30 pm - Quilting / *Mary Guntz's*
6 7:00 pm - Church Council / *Church*
8 6:00 pm - Young Adult Potluck / *Schlabach-North Home*
9 7:30 am - Women's Breakfast / *Farmer's Diner*
10 Leadership Team Meeting
13 Pastoral Care Team Meeting
26 Deadline for January issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*
31 9:30 am - Ekklesia / Song Service **Birthday Song for November & December*

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 Boninta Aloisio
11 th Laura Beidler	24 th Jane Dandurand
13 th Chuck Kidwell	29 th Jan Collins

December Anniversaries

21st Toby & Rebekah Deitrich

December Song Leaders

3rd Janet North
 10th Carmeleta Beidler
 17th Jan Zook
 24th Omar Zook
 31st Richard Glick

December Childcare Schedule

3rd Virginia Schlabach
 10th Emily Glick
 17th Carmeleta Beidler
 24th Carie Good
 31st Nancy Pejouhy

December Cleaning Schedule

3rd George Abetti
 10th Aloisio
 17th Aloisio
 24th Melissa Ayers
 31st Beidler

Family of the Month

Each month we will feature a family/individual along with some of their favorite Bible verses/passages. Richard Glick is the photographer and is collecting these photos to compile into a pictorial directory - coming in the future.



Carie, Randy & Tim Good

Favorite Verses

Carie:

I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation, for everyone who believes. *Romans 1:16*

Randy:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. *Galatians 2:20*

Tim:

Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. *Psalms 46:10*

Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

35 Years Ago This Month

December 6, 1971

The co-sponsored Mennonite broadcasts on WDEV will be cancelled. We will evaluate information about the Mennonite Minute programs, Heart-to-Heart, and Billy Graham programs to consider for further sponsorship.

December 6, 1971

With approval from team members, the congregation voted to continue with the team ministry and re-evaluate it again in 6 months.

30 Years Ago This Month

December 7, 1976

A telephone system will be made up to include all the Taftsville members; to inform members of any cancellations, member illness or hospitalization, etc.

25 Years Ago This Month

December 10, 1981

A large group met at Martha Glick's home to make Christmas stockings for the Fold. Thirteen stockings were made by the women, and filled by the Sunday School classes.

20 Years Ago This Month

December 2, 1986

There is continued discussion on constructing a wheelchair ramp at the front of our building. Members are not enthused. Could the access ramp enter the building into the small room at the front of the auditorium?

10 Years Ago This Month

December 1, 1996

Earl Martin, MCC storyteller, will be the speaker for our morning service, with a potluck meal to follow.

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

Randy Good, pastor
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