



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

February 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

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February is the month we find cupids and hearts everywhere, and maybe even give and receive a valentine or two. As a child I loved Valentine's Day. This meant getting to decorate a shoebox with crepe paper and frilly doilies, and spend long afternoons designing and making those little valentines for everyone in the classroom. This usually included someone special which I always tried to keep a secret. I especially liked those big books of "ready-made" valentines flocked in red velvet, with the cutouts, and punch-outs, and insert tabs: "fold here and insert tab a into slot b" and fold-on-the-dotted-line make-your-own envelopes. They had all kinds of cartoon-y characters like vegetables saying, "Lettuce be valentines", and bunnies "Hopping" to be your valentine. I always saved my biggest and favorite valentine for someone special.

It's not a stretch during this February holiday to think of God's invitation to us. He wants us to be His Valentine; He wants us to know that He loves us, and invites us into a special relationship with Him. The disciple John (who ended up writing a gospel and at least 3 letters) responded to Jesus' (Valentine) invitation *to be loved*. He refers to himself as "the disciple Jesus loved" (John 13:23). He knew in the deepest core of his being that his beloved rabbi loved *him*, and because he comprehended the nature of Jesus' love and the difference that made in the depth of his own soul, he was able to write to us such amazing verses as "For God so loved the world that He gave us His own son..." (John 3:16) and "For no greater love has one than this: that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends" (John 15:13-14). If you have read John's letters in the New Testament, you know that they are filled with an understanding of God's love, revealed in Jesus. "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" (I John 3:1) and "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us..." (I John 4:7). "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us... In this way love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment" (I John 4:16-17).

The apostle Paul prays in Ephesians 3:14-20 that we might be "strengthened with the power of the Spirit to grasp how deep, how wide, how long and how broad is the love of Christ", and that "knowing this love is beyond knowing". In other words, fathoming Jesus' love for us does not come about by reasoned understanding of the situation, or even by a studied grasp of the Scriptures. It is not a generic "God loves the world" kind of thing (though of course He does), but a personal "God loves *you*". Paul seems to suggest that this personal understanding in the depth of your soul that God loves you devotedly comes about only by the work of the Holy Spirit, given access through our willingness to receive it. If you have not yet been apprehended by the measureless and unconditional ("while we were yet sinners") love of God, perhaps this season you will find yourself moved to surrender to His personal love, and to fully receive His Valentine. He made it for someone special. You. Happy Valentine's Day!

-Carie Good

Love Messages

These are love messages found in the Bible.

To discover what they are, put one letter from the columns below into each square, using each letter only once.

A black square means the end of a word.

The image contains three crossword puzzles, each with a grid and a set of letter columns below it. The puzzles are decorated with hearts and numbers 1, 2, and 3.

Puzzle 1: Grid 10x10. Black squares at (1,3), (2,1), (2,3), (3,3), (4,1), (4,3), (5,1), (5,3), (6,1), (6,3), (7,1), (7,3), (8,1), (8,3), (9,1), (9,3), (10,1), (10,3). Letter columns: TOW, FHUSH, OSEE, PC, HASFL, ROHRR, VOAAI, SETLM, ETL.

Puzzle 2: Grid 10x10. Black squares at (1,2), (1,4), (1,6), (1,8), (2,2), (2,4), (2,6), (2,8), (3,2), (3,4), (3,6), (3,8), (4,2), (4,4), (4,6), (4,8), (5,2), (5,4), (5,6), (5,8), (6,2), (6,4), (6,6), (6,8), (7,2), (7,4), (7,6), (7,8), (8,2), (8,4), (8,6), (8,8), (9,2), (9,4), (9,6), (9,8), (10,2), (10,4), (10,6), (10,8). Letter columns: ATVAA, EVSTHM, EHEDE, LET, ISHORY, VOVOY, UELH, DOFHA.

Puzzle 3: Grid 10x10. Black squares at (1,2), (1,4), (1,6), (1,8), (2,2), (2,4), (2,6), (2,8), (3,2), (3,4), (3,6), (3,8), (4,2), (4,4), (4,6), (4,8), (5,2), (5,4), (5,6), (5,8), (6,2), (6,4), (6,6), (6,8), (7,2), (7,4), (7,6), (7,8), (8,2), (8,4), (8,6), (8,8), (9,2), (9,4), (9,6), (9,8), (10,2), (10,4), (10,6), (10,8). Letter columns: SNT, LEH, TIOO, GUVH, YEH, SSB, THOE, LARH, FLY, AT.

Responses to the "JANUARY QUESTION OF THE MONTH"

Do you make New Year's Resolutions? (20% of the congregation responded)

70% No, I do not make resolutions

30% Yes, I do make resolutions

Of those responding Yes, 100% said they have not been able to keep their resolutions.

And of those surveyed, 100% of the unkept resolutions involved food and/or weight!!



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

Candlelighters' Events

Candlelighters and Ladies Breakfast

Saturday January 14 about 9 ladies met at church to enjoy a delicious potluck breakfast together. (See recipe! →) Then we gathered around a quilt frame and tied three comforters to be taken to Mennonite Central Committee. Two of the quilts are completed now and will be delivered the beginning of February.

Saturday February 11

Ladies breakfast will be at Denny's Restaurant in West Lebanon at 7:30 am.

Saturday March 11

Ladies breakfast at the Creamery Restaurant in Woodstock at 8:30 am followed by Candlelighters at church. This time we will cut more squares for MCC quilts, and maybe start sewing some together. The plan is to have a pile of squares cut so they are ready for anyone to sew together.

The recipe that was requested at our (thoroughly delicious) recent Candlelighters' potluck brunch:

Eggs Mornay

8 hard-cooked eggs, halved
4 Tbs butter
4 Tbs flour
1 1/2 C. milk
1/2 C. heavy cream
salt - pepper - nutmeg to taste
1/4 C. grated Gruyere cheese
1/3 C. grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 450. Arrange the eggs, cut side down, in a buttered baking dish. In a saucepan over medium heat, make a white sauce: melt the butter; using a whisk, blend in the flour, and then the milk, stirring constantly. Add the cream and seasonings. When the sauce thickens, add the gruyere cheese and stir until melted, then pour the sauce over the eggs. Sprinkle the parmesan cheese over the top. Bake until browned on the top, 20-30 minutes.

Directory and Calendar Updates Wanted

It is time to update the **Taftsville Chapel Address/Phone/E-mail List**. Please submit any changes and/or additions to Carie Good at jrccgood@valley.net or note your change on the list on the table in the Millen Room at church.

We also would like to bring the **Taftsville Chapel Calendar** up to date. If you have not given your birthday or anniversary dates for the calendar, please send to them to **Janet North** at fjmns@localnet.com.

A few recent changes submitted in E-mail addresses are:

Fred Schlabach & Janet North: fjmns@localnet.com

Allen & Mary Guntz: allenhguntz@mac.com / maryguntz@mac.com

Getting Familiar With the Bible

A serious violinist calls their violin their Best Friend, and takes very good care of it. Because the Bible is a written instrument of God speaking to us, I would like to think of it as my Best Friend. A best friend is someone I want to spend time with and get to know better.

In January during the second hour, children have been learning that the Bible is God's Word and precious gift to us. We also discussed where the Bible came from, how it is organized, and how to use it. As we continue into February, we will be concentrating on stories from the Old Testament.

In March we will be looking at stories from the New Testament. The best way to get familiar with the Bible is to use it. Because it is such a large volume of books, chapters and verses, and can be difficult to understand, we will be working on Bible skills each week. Children observe and learn from adults their church habits. In addition to using the Bible in our homes and private lives, I strongly encourage all of us to bring them to church; look up references when they are read in the worship service. Maybe it is time to refresh your Bible skills as well. One of the children may be able to help you!

-Jan Collins

Taftsville Chapel's Historic Building

One weekend last summer when Jan and I were cleaning the Church, I could not help but be more attentive of the plaque near the front entrance of the building. Although I have seen it many times before this day, I became more interested in the historical significance of the building and its use. I brought this to the attention of Allen Guntz. He told me that he had a book titled "Taftsville Tales" published by the Happy Valley Homemakers Club in 1967 that included historical information on Taftsville Chapel. This book is also in the Taftsville Church library. If you are interested in reading more about the people and places who were in Taftsville at that time, check out this book. Much of the following information came from that book.

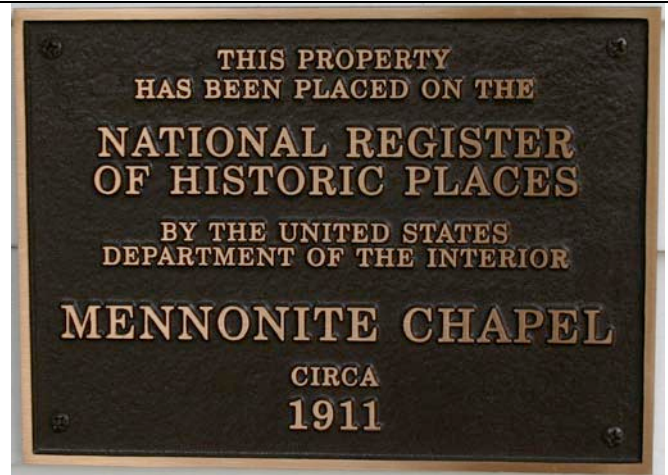
"The building now known as Taftsville Chapel had its beginnings when the Town of Woodstock, at its annual Town meeting in 1911, voted to appropriate a sum of money sufficient to build a new school house in the village of Taftsville with a hall sufficient for school assemblies, religious purposes, or any other purpose for the benefit or advancement of the people of said village."

"In accordance with this resolution the old schoolhouse was set off its foundation and to one side while the present two room building was constructed on the site."

"This school held a Superior Rating for most of its years. Rural education came to an end in Taftsville in 1953 and the children were then transported by bus to the Woodstock Village school. The school was used from 1953 to 1957 as two supplementary classrooms to relieve crowded conditions at the Village school. This school was closed at the end of the 1957 school term to be used no more as such."

"The Mennonite Religious Group from Pennsylvania came into this particular area in 1947 from Chester, Vt. while looking for communities which had no established Church. They did have an active Sunday School at the time but mutual arrangements were made with the P.T.A. group as sponsors to conduct a summer Bible School for two weeks each year."

"The Mennonites purchased the school building in 1961, and established a church here. It is attended by many of their own people who come



↑ In October of 2000 a group of residents from the Taftsville community nominated several buildings in the village (historic district), which included the Taftsville Chapel building, to be placed on the National Register of Historical Places. This was approved on August 2, 2001.

to (at the time) Hanover, NH to work in the Hospital Corp where they serve in many capacities and the Mary Hitchcock Hospital has much to say in praise of them and their work. There is always a friendly open invitation to all to visit their Church and attend their services. Their music is truly beautiful." *(This continues to be evident to this day!)*

We, the members of Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship, continue to gather and worship in this historical building in the village of Taftsville every Sunday at 9:30 am for Sunday school and 11:00 am for worship service.

Other historical notes:

- "The Taftsville covered bridge was built in 1836, by Solomon Emmons the third, at a cost of \$1800.."
- The village of Taftsville got its name from the Taft family the first of whom Stephen Taft, a blacksmith and his sister, Prudence, came to Taftsville about 1793. There were other people who settled in the area before that.
- The Taft family was related to President William H. Taft who served as the 27th president from 1909 to 1913.

– Submitted by Bob Collins

Mennonite Education Agency / Prayers for Faith and Learning

“Mennonite Education Agency (MEA) seeks to strengthen the life, witness and identity of Mennonite Church USA through education. The agency provides leadership to the educational agenda of the church in partnership with both church and schools of all levels.

On behalf of Mennonite Church USA, MEA helps provide leadership to elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities and seminaries. These church schools nurture servant leaders for the church and for communities and families through the United States (including Puerto Rico), Canada and beyond.

MEA also works with conferences, congregations and individuals throughout Mennonite Church USA that are involved in and passionate about the unique qualities of Mennonite education.”

The month of February is designated as “Education Month” in Mennonite Church USA.

Following are suggested prayer requests for each week in February taken from the “Prayers for Faith and Learning” put out by MEA. For a full listing of prayer requests for each day of the month, go to their web site:

www.MenoniteEducation.org

Week of February 5-11

Pray for James E. Brenneman, called by God to leadership and named as Goshen (Ind.) College’s next president, as he continues to prepare for his role in leading the college in its Christ-centered educational mission to produce servant-leaders for the church and world. Pray for Jim and his wife, Terri J. Plank Brenneman, and their son, Quinn, as they make arrangements to move from their home on the west coast to Indiana. Pray for Goshen College as its leadership, faculty, staff and student body prepare to welcome a new president.

Week of February 12-18

Pray for the Lancaster Mennonite School administration and faculty this month as they work at The Mennonite Edition of Validating the Vision, the reaccreditation process for both Middle states Association of Colleges and Schools and Mennonite Education Agency.

Week of February 19-25

Pray for the Education Opportunities Summit to be held February 20-22 in Los Angeles. This event is part of the Urban and Racial/Ethnic Education Initiative, a collaborative effort of Mennonite Education Agency, Mennonite Church USA Intercultural Relations and Mennonite Mission Network. The make-up of Mennonite Church USA, like the demographics of this country, is rapidly changing. These exciting changes point to the need to train new leaders for the future of our missional identity and outreach.

Week of February 26

Pray that the seeds planted in the hearts of students during Missions Week at Linville Hill Mennonite School, February 27-March 3, would bear fruit in years ahead and produce missionaries committed to sharing the Gospel at home and abroad. Linville Hill is located in Paradise, Pa.

Let us also remember to pray for the schools that are in our conference, Franconia Mennonite Conference:

- **Christopher Dock Mennonite High School**
- **Penn View Christian School**
- **Philadelphia Mennonite High School**
- **Quakertown Christian School**

NOTE FROM EDITOR: Rosalind Enns Andreas, member of Taftsville Chapel, is the Chair of the Board for *Mennonite Education Agency*. Rosalind has been a great help to me recently. MaryBeth Beck and I have been putting together a curriculum for our Sunday School for Pre-K through Grade 6 entitled “Getting Familiar With the Bible.” I felt stumped and a bit overwhelmed in how best to present the Bible to the children in a way that they will want to read it, and will be encouraged to dig into the truths inside it even when the text may be confusing to understand. Aware that Rosalind had a career in education and held a position with MEA, I contacted her with my concerns. With her knowledge and experience, and relationships through MEA, she gave helpful words of encouragement, resources, and suggestions. Thank you Rosalind.

Movie Nite at Taftsville

Five people met at the church on Friday evening, January 27, to enjoy each other's company and to view the movie *Hotel Rwanda*. "Enjoy" is not a description of what one does in watching this movie. The 2004 award-winning film depicts the events of the genocide that took place a decade earlier in Rwanda and parts of neighboring countries. The film graphically depicts the depths to which human beings can descend, while at the same time relating the story of one man who made a promise to protect the family he loved and ended up saving the lives of countless others as well. At the same time all of us in the West are shamed for the inaction that allowed the butchery to take place unabated.

The small group of viewers was moved to tears (I found myself sobbing) by the end of the movie even as we wanted to discuss its impact. We regret that more people did not avail themselves of the opportunity to see this powerful movie. Those of us attending wondered if 6 PM is too early for some persons. Would a later start time make it easier for more people to attend? There will be opportunity for feedback before the showing of February's movie, which is *The Widow of St. Pierre*. Look for further announcements.

- Abner Schlabach

Coming up...

Movie Nite

Friday February 24

6-10:00 p.m.

Taftsville Chapel

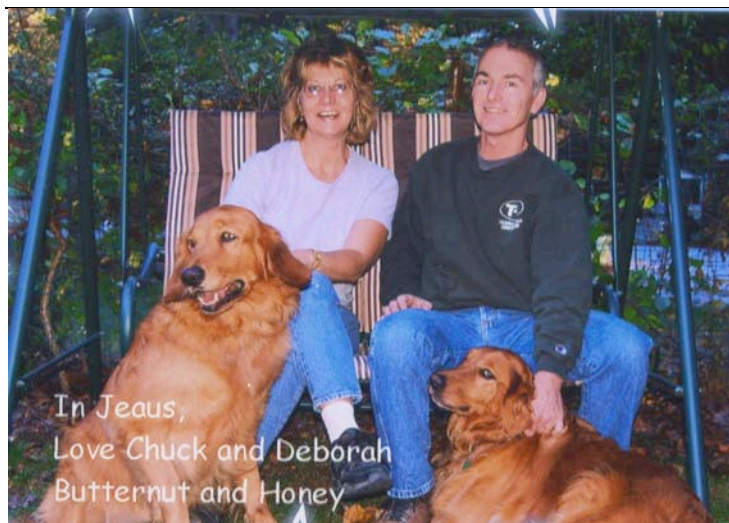
The Widow of St. Pierre

At an Outpost in Newfoundland in the late 1800s, a guilty man is sentenced to the guillotine. His sentence and imprisonment is the backdrop for a touching story of redemption and sacrifice. Is the law always moral and just? What is the cost of standing up for what you believe to be right?

Invite your friends and neighbors and join us for delicious popcorn, terrific movie and stimulating conversation!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

*Note: Movie Nite will be for adults only
as movies shown may be rated R.*



In Jeaus,
Love Chuck and Deborah
Butternut and Honey

In a recent note received from Chuck and Deborah they commented, after 6 days without power due to a winter ice storm, "So we moved south to leave winter behind???"

Our friends, Chuck and Deborah Kidwell, send their greetings from Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Schedule for February

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

- Feb. 3** Bethany Birches Camp – Lynx Snow Camp – Grades 9-12
4 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast / *Eaton’s Sugar House*
9 6:00 pm – Young Adult Potluck / *TBA*
11 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast / *Denny’s Restaurant*
24 6:00 pm – Movie Night – “The Widow of Saint Pierre” / *Church*
26 9:30 am – EKKLESIA
 Birthday Song for January & February
27 Deadline for March issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*

February Birthdays

6 th Marie Hackman	18 th Dave Iott
10 th Ruben Dandurand	21 st Victoria Dandurand
12 th Tim Good	25 th Virginia Schlabach
15 th Seth Dandurand	26 th Kerry Beck
16 th MaryBeth Beck	

February Anniversaries

11 th Dennis & Marie Hackman
13 th George & Catherine Abetti

February Song Leaders

5 th Omar Zook
12 th Karen Cox
19 th Janet North
26 th Virginia Schlabach

February Cleaning Schedule

5 th G. Abetted
12 th Aloisio
19 th Aloisio
26 th M. Ayers

February Childcare Schedule

5 th Carie Good
10 th Nancy Pejouhy
15 th Janet North
26 th Mary Guntz

Taftsville Tally	
Attendance	Offering
Jan. 1 st -----33	-----\$1,161.00
	Special Offering --500.00
8 th -----51	-----1,344.50
15 th SNOW DAY	
22 nd -----59	-----2,486.85
29 th -----44	-----1,734.45

“FEBRUARY QUESTION OF THE MONTH”

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

Which of the following most closely fits with your joy of giving for our weekly offering?

___ **Passing the basket (as we do now) as a part of worship**

___ **Using an inconspicuous box in the rear of the meeting room for anonymous giving**

Comments: _____

Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

35 Years Ago This Month

February 16, 1971

The leadership from Pennsylvania suggested giving John Lutz a ministerial license for 6 months pending the installation of a permanent pastor. The Church Council approved.

February 21, 1971

Congratulations and the Lord's blessings to Darlene and Dale Snader, who welcomed a new addition to their family: a son, Daryl Lee.

30 Years Ago This Month

February 5, 1976

A charge of \$10.00 to the Vermont Goat Association was agreed upon for the use of the church building.

February 5, 1976

Karen Glick and Doreen Brower will take charge of the library for the rest of the Sunday School year.

20 Years Ago This Month

February 20, 1986

Nelson and Ellen lead a group to Mexico City to spend two weeks working there. It is the recommendation of council that our church sponsor Alan Compare to join the group.

15 Years Ago This Month

February 22, 1991

Bethany Birches Camp is reserved for a congregational Taftsville Winter Play retreat.

*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
(802) 457-1516

Taftsville Chapel

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