



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

January 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

“...for His compassions never fail – they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness...”

That this truth about God comes in the midst of the Book of Lamentations is both a comfort and a challenge. It’s comforting to know that trusting in God’s unstoppable compassion and faithfulness is well placed trust. It’s good to know that this kind of trust was never designed to make grief and lament illegitimate realities, but to put them in a context of hope. It’s a comfort to know that God’s compassion and faithfulness are not finite things that might someday run out or get used up. They are infinite attributes of our eternal Lord.

The challenge is: Do we live, really *live*, as if this is true: His compassion and faithfulness are unlimited and dependable. Or, do we create back-up plans and worry over them, protect them and justify them? Do we limit God to what we feel is reasonable and end up living by mostly reason, and not by faith?

Several months ago I bought a new pair of work gloves. The old ones had finally worn through in enough places that they were useless to protect my hands from splinters and abrasions, but they sure were comfortable and familiar. The new gloves sat in the back seat of my truck for weeks after I bought them. Somehow I didn’t want to mess them up, or start the process of using them up. They have a finite useful life, and I didn’t want to start that clock ticking just yet. Silly, huh? I bought them to protect my hands from damage, but they sat unused. Eventually I got a big enough splinter of hemlock lodged in my palm to not only use the new gloves, but to actually throw the old ones away. I had made a commitment.

It struck me later that if I actually had an unlimited supply of work gloves (new ones every morning) it might just change the way I work with my hands. Instead of cautiously protecting my new gloves from harm, I could throw myself into my work with more abandon. If I trusted that conserving (hoarding) my gloves was unnecessary, I might just work with more joy.

Where do you and I tend to place the truth of His compassion and faithfulness: on the back seat of our lives or in the palm of our hands? If we really knew that all His loving attributes were *new every morning*, could we walk out our days with more generosity of spirit?

As the new year begins, I’m challenged by this verse to risk treating His compassion and faithfulness as the inexhaustible resources for life that they are. I wish I could go so far as to say it’s a resolution, but maybe a risk is a good enough start. I look forward to seeing where the Infinite and Unstoppable One takes us this year.

Blessings, friends.
Randy

Pastor Randy’s Note	1
Bits & Pieces.....	2
2nd Hour PreK-Gr 6.....	2
An Oak Tree.....	2
Response Dec. Question.....	2
Movie Nite	3
Candlelighter’s Brunch	3
Dear Churchmouse	4
January Schedule	5
Birthdays.....	5
Anniversaries.....	5
Song Leaders.....	5
Cleaning.....	5
Childcare.....	5
Tally for December.....	5
Question of the Month	5
Tidbit Trivia.....	6

Second Hour for Pre-K through 6th Grade

As Christians the most important book we own is the Bible. The Bible is an all time best seller. How much do we read/study our Bible? How easy do you find it to use and understand? I wonder if we forget that it is the recording of God's continual relationship to us, his children, through all time. Don't we crave this relationship? As adults and parents, do we exemplify and encourage the use of this treasure to our children? The next three months we plan to motivate an interest in the Bible to our children.

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. Children should bring their own Bibles to church if they have one. We will also have Bibles provided for use in the class.

We will be changing the format of our classes for this age group. We will have all ages together for story/instruction time and singing. We will then split up into 3 age groups for activities, games, and practicing Bible Skills. Marybeth Beck and Jan Collins are coordinating the program, but they need storytellers and activity leaders. Please consider helping for a Sunday or two, or for a quarter. Materials will be provided, but your creativity is welcome. Please contact Marybeth or Jan if you are interested in helping with this program.

→ Check Out Taftsville Chapel's Website!
<<http://www.taftsvillechapel.org/>>

Responses to the "DECEMBER QUESTION OF THE MONTH"

Does our family include Santa Claus in our Christmas celebration?

We had less than 1% response to our December Question of the Month, but of that response, 100% claimed that Santa Claus has never been included as a part of celebrating Christmas!



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

AN OAK TREE - as seen by a deer hunter

by Richard Glick

Prior to my birth this giant oak grew from an acorn dropped from another oak which is now decayed and a part of the forest floor. After I die this oak, baring a cataclysmic event or a lumberman's saw, will still be tall and strong and bearing acorns for future oak trees.

Why does this tree draw my attention from among the many trees of the forest? It is tall and appears so strong with its branches spreading out and reaching upwards towards the sun. Many storms have failed to bring it down. This oak has been there for many sunrises, sunsets, and many seasons of heat and cold. Its roots go deep and fasten the ledge covered by a blanket of brown leaves. Many deer, turkeys, squirrels, and even an occasional black bear have grown fat feasting on the acorns dropped by this oak. Many birds have rested on its lofty branches. A small part of the trunk of this tree is hollow and porcupines have found a place for their den.

I am drawn to go close to this oak and touch the rough bark with its deep crevices. The bark was much smoother when the tree was younger. I notice some of its branches have died and were brought down by a gust of wind or the weight of ice or snow.

As my gaze rests on this giant oak I am reminded of the Creator and breathe a prayer of thanks to God for creating such an inspiring tree and giving me eyes to see it.

Movie Nite

About a dozen viewers enjoyed yummy snacks and the silliness of “Whoville” on the snowy evening of December 9. We watched How the Grinch Stole Christmas, and contemplated how kindness can influence a change of heart. **Come join us for our next Movie Nite on January 27**, where we will leave the silly songs, costumes and sculpted hairstyles of the Whos, and travel to the heart of Rwanda in the early ‘90s to wrestle with the impact of racism and genocide. It is after the wonderful Christmas story that we read of Mary and Joseph’s flight into Egypt to avoid the slaughter of children in Judah. Jesus and his family become refugees for a time, and very likely are often dependent on the generous kindness of strangers. Together we will watch Hotel Rwanda and learn of one man’s courageous generosity and stand against violence, for the sake of helpless refugees. This is not an easy film to watch (it is rated R for gruesome killings) but we hope to share in the true grief that is in the world and encourage each other in the ways we, too, can make a difference for peace, justice and freedom.

**Coming up...
Movie Nite**

**Friday January 27th
6-10:00 p.m.ish
Taftsville Chapel**

Hotel Rwanda

A true look at the gruesomeness of genocide and the impact of one man’s choice.

Bring snacks if you like,
Popcorn and soda provided.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU
THERE!**

Note: Movie Nite will be for adults only as this movie (as well as some others which we expect to show) is rated R.



Candlelighters' Christmas Brunch and Quilting

On Saturday, December 10th, eight women of the Candlelighters gathered together at Mary Guntz' home for a potluck brunch. We enjoyed a fine time of fellowship surrounded with Christmas music and a relaxing atmosphere. Following the brunch we settled around a quilting frame with our needles, thimbles and thread to stitch a beautiful quilt for next year's Bethany Birches Camp auction. Some of us are old pros at quilting, while others of us are slowly learning the skill. This was a good time of coming together to be creative, learn the skill better, and be encouraged by the master quilters. And knowing it would be a beautiful quilt to be sold at the BBC Benefit auction next fall just made it all the more fun. We hope it will bring much joy to the buyer and big income for the camp! **Attention all Candlelighters** – *more quilting possibilities coming up. Listen for the dates and times during announcements at church. Come and add your stitches.*

Dear Churchmouse,

I consider myself a good Christian; I try to be kind and generous and thoughtful. I don't have any vices like smoking or drinking. I really can't think of anything that I do that is mean or hurtful. In fact, when I try to confess my sins during my evening prayer, I often can't think of anything. So, how does Christian repentance apply to me?

Dear Saint,

No one knows what sin is until he is born again. The evidence that I am delivered from sin is that I know the real nature of sin in me. This is not conscious sin only, but the tremendously profound understanding of sin, which only the Holy Spirit in me realizes.

Sin is a fundamental *relationship*; it is not immorality, but the temperament of self-realization. It is not wrong doing, it is wrong *being* - independence from God. This disposition may work itself out in decorous morality -- or in immorality - either way it has the same basis, my claim to my right to myself. Our Lord did not pay any attention to the moral degradation of one person or the moral attainment of another; He looked at something we do not see; the disposition.

When a man really sees himself as the Lord sees him, it is not the sins of the flesh that shock him, but the awful nature of the pride of his own heart against Jesus Christ. When he sees himself in the light of the Lord, the shame and the horror and the desperate conviction come home. What our Lord wants us to present to him is not goodness, not honesty, nor endeavor, but real solid sin; that is all He can take from us. And what does He give in exchange for our sin? Real solid righteousness; *His own righteousness*. But we must relinquish all pretence of being anything, all claim of meriting God's consideration.

Sin is a thing I am born with, and I cannot make it go away. If you refuse to agree with the fact that there is self-seeking, instead of reconciling yourself to it, you will compromise with it. We do not like to reconcile ourselves to the fact of sin. We take a rational view of life and say that a person by controlling his instincts, and by educating himself, can produce a life that will slowly evolve into the life of God. But as we go

on, we find the presence of something that we have not taken into consideration; which is sin itself. We have to recognize that sin is a fact, not a defect; sin is mutiny against God. Either God or sin must die in my life.

Am I prepared to let the Spirit of God search me until I know what the disposition of sin is - the thing that resists the very Spirit of God in me? Then, if so, will I agree with God's verdict on the disposition of sin - that it should be identified with the death of Jesus? I cannot reckon myself "dead unto sin" unless I have been through this radical issue of my will before God. If the Spirit of God has given you a vision of what you are apart from the grace of God (and He only does this when His Spirit is at work) you know there is no criminal who is half so bad in actuality as you know yourself to be in possibility. [As Paul said, "I know that in me dwells no good thing."]

Conviction of sin always brings a fearful binding sense of the law. I, a guilty sinner, can never get right with God; it is impossible. There is only one way in which I can get right with God, and that is by the Death of Jesus Christ. God alone removes my sin in redemption. I must get rid of the lurking idea that I can ever be right with God because of my obedience - which of us could ever obey God to absolute perfection! Get alone with Jesus and either tell Him that you do not want sin to die out in you; or else tell Him that at all costs you want His death to be realized in you. As soon as you transact in confident faith what our Lord did on the Cross, you will know with a supernatural knowledge that your "old self" is crucified with Christ, and nevertheless, "you live", because you are also resurrected with Christ.

(Compiled from Oswald Chamber's My Utmost for His Highest - March 8, April 10, June 1, 23 & 24, October 5 & 7, December 1, 23 & 26)

Schedule for January

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

**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.

- Jan. 7 7:00am – Men’s Breakfast / Eaton’s Sugar House
 8 9:30am – EKKLESIA
 11:00am – Second Hour / 1st Sunday with new class structure for pre-K through 6th grade
 11 7:00pm – Church Council Meeting / Church
 12 6:00pm – Young Adult Potluck / Beck’s
 13 Bethany Birches Camp – Bobcat Snow Camp, Grades 3-5
 14 10:00am – Women’s Potluck Brunch and Quilting / Church
 15 9:30am – Commitment Sunday with Potluck Lunch following worship and 2nd Hour
 27 6:00pm – Movie Night “Hotel Rwanda” / Church
 29 9:30am – Song Service
 30 Deadline for February issue of Taftsville Chapel Current

January Birthdays

3 rd Ruth Ann Glick	19 th Josh Abetti
Seth Shaw	21 st Denver Beck
10 th Carmeleta Beidler	Josiah Esch
12 th Kristin Aloisio	Omar Zook
15 th Hannah Cox	24 th Erin Beidler

January Anniversaries

22nd Nancy & Russell Pejouhy
 23rd Roy & Janet Aloisio

Song Leaders for January

1st Rebekah Deitrich
 8th Jan Zook
 15th Richard Glick
 22nd Dave Lutz
 29th Rebekah Deitrich

January Cleaning Schedule

1st Shaw
 8th Beck/Alderfer
 15th Beck/Alderfer
 22nd
 29th

January Childcare Schedule

1st Katharine Allen
 8th Mary Guntz
 15th Virginia Schlabach
 22nd Janet North
 29th Emily Glick

Taftsville Tally		
	Attendance	Offering
Nov. 27 th	46	?
Dec. 4 th	40	\$965.00
11 th	45	2,206.00
18 th	48	1,225.00
25 th	44	2,295.00

“JANUARY QUESTION OF THE MONTH”

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

Do you typically make a New Year’s Resolution?

Yes

No

If so, have you ever been successful in keeping one?

Yes

No

Comments: _____

Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

35 Years Ago This Month

January 17, 1971

Allen Guntz, Richard Glick and Larry Moyer discussed plans for the Summer Bible School. Instead of having a superintendent, they decided to work as a team. The enrollment goal is set for attendance of 100. Pray for this ministry that it might be a way of saving young souls for Christ.

January 30, 1971

Winter activities for former 1W's who attended Taftsville- meet at the Occum Pond for ice-skating, sledding or tobogganing on the golf course.

25 Years Ago This Month

January 7, 1981

Youth debate: "Should Christian Men Register for the Draft?"

20 Years Ago This Month

January 16, 1986

The Sunday School format was discussed. It was the consensus that we should not return to the standard Builder lesson series soon, but rather continue to have individuals prepare and teach lessons of varied topics.

15 Years Ago This Month

January 7, 1991

Richard Moon reported that after talking with someone from the town water and sewer department that the previous threats about disconnecting our sewer were a little dubious.

10 Years Ago This Month

January 4, 1996

Our "Ambassadors to Africa", John and Ruth Lutz, are heading to Chad in a few weeks. They will bring anything to Brent and Regina and/or bring anything back!

*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

P O Box 44

Taftsville, Vermont 05073