



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

June 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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***"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."* Ephesians 6:18**

"...Pray for each other..." James 5:16

Prayer for each other is always good. It's one of the very few activities in life in which, as Oswald Chambers puts it, "there is no snare." Even so, sometimes we can be uncertain about it. What is OK to ask for? What is too much? What is too trivial? When is it too private or too complicated to share with others?

Taftsville Chapel has a "news" phone chain, which often doubles as a way to share prayer requests among the congregation. Someone with a desire for prayer support in a situation they are facing calls one of the Pastoral Care Team or their prayer chain leader, and the chain is set in motion. Sometimes it breaks down, but usually word is spread throughout the group and praying begins.

What about those times where we're just not sure if our need warrants setting the chain in motion? What about those situations where something is on your heart, but the details or context would be unknown or inappropriate to most in the congregation? Are some going without prayer support because of a hesitancy to "burden" the congregation with something that may not have an immediate connection to the whole group?

Recently, the Leadership Team and the Pastoral Care Team have been giving some thought to this. We would like to form a prayer circle (mini phone chain) that would be fully available to the congregation for any request, no matter how unrelated to the larger group. Initially, the prayer circle will be made up of the Pastoral Care Team and the existing prayer chain leaders (Beidlers, Glicks, Goods, Hackmans, and Zooks). As other folks who sense that they have a special gift and calling to a ministry of prayer express their willingness, they will be added to the circle. Of course, we are all called to pray for one another, but some do have a unique gifting (joy) in prayer and intercession.

What if you knew this group was ready and willing to pray for and with you as things come up in your life or in the lives of those you care about? We envision that the congregational phone chain would still be started for requests and announcements that are clearly within the awareness of our whole church family, but for those things that have little context for the whole group, or when you would feel more comfortable with a smaller circle of awareness, the prayer circle would be there. Just call, and prayer will begin. The person called can help you discern whether it is a "circle" prayer or for the whole chain, if there is some question.

So, this is an invitation to those who would like prayer, and also to those who would like to pray. If you sense a calling to the ministry of prayer, or if prayer is a special joy to you, please let Carie or me know so your gifts can be included in the prayer circle.

Shalom,
Randy

Sunday School / Second Hour

"Community" - Adult 2nd Hour led by Sheldon Esch

- Is there a difference in how you think of "community" among a local body of believers and the "community" of the place where you live?
- In what ways have you experienced a sense of community with the fellowship at Taftsville?
- What are the obstacles to achieving a stronger practice of community?
- What are the biblical models of community?

These are some of the questions that began our discussion during the adult hour May 14th and 21st. Randy's sermon the first Sunday focused on the last question above with a focus on the early church in Acts. Conversation during the second hour was lively and thoughtful, confirming a real interest in and continuing desire for genuine Christian community among us.

Much of the discussion the first week dealt with how our lives consist of a variety of communities, with our church gathering sometimes feeling separate from other communities such as school, work, or local civic involvements. It is rare in these times to find one's faith community overlapping with one's local community and that disconnection is sometimes difficult to reconcile with our ideals of what community should look like.

The second week began by considering how each of us has experienced community happening within the Taftsville fellowship. A strong community shares a common focus or vision and it was emphasized a number of times that our common focus on Christ as our Head defines who we are and makes us distinctive from merely a group of friends with common interests.

In our attempt to find answers to questions about community, many other questions arose, including "Does the church offer an attractive model of community to those outside the church who hunger for it?" and "Is there a place for being intentional in our practice of Christian community without feeling our individual freedom is being constrained or manipulated?" Judging from the discussion during the two weeks, there is a lot more to be explored around this topic as we both celebrate our commonality in Christ and grow together in finding out exactly what that means in practice.

Thank you, THANK YOU!

A big THANK YOU to ALL the Teachers and Helpers during our Second Hour / Sunday School this past year. It has been a good year with changes in curriculum, style and presentation. We look forward to another good year in the Fall.

Bits and Pieces

Eugénie & Nancy Visit Us

On Sunday, May 21st we were honored to have Nancy Iott and her friend Eugénie Mukeshimana, join us for worship. Eugénie, originally from Kilgali, Rwanda and a survivor of the Rwanda genocide, shared with us how God has sustained her through that horrible experience, and her love of life in spite of it all. Her sharing and her presence were a real challenge and blessing to us. An upbeat comment from Eugénie to Nancy after her visit with us at Taftsville Chapel was: "Who says there's not community in America!"

Baby Bottles

From Mother's Day until Father's Day the children will be collecting change in baby bottles each Sunday. These offerings will benefit Carenet in West Lebanon as they help women with pregnancy testing, ultra sounds, counseling and other needs.
Nancy Pejouhy

Sol Levenson Remembered

Saturday, May 27th family & friends joined together for a celebratory reception in memory of Sol at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center where he painted 9 murals, and was working on his 10th of the Civil War when he died at the age of 95. You can view these murals at DHMC; just go to the reception desk and ask where they are. They are spectacular, full of life, and a must see. He was not only a fine artist, but also a storyteller and a source of much encouragement for numerous patients, nurses, doctors and staff.

Responses to the "MAY QUESTION OF THE MONTH"

We had a 12% response from the congregation. **100% of the responders find taking a full Sabbath Day each week to be very spiritually meaningful.** *Comments include that a Sabbath day provides an important time for rest, reflection, recreation and worship, and that taking a Sabbath is in fact a Biblical commandment. Several of us mentioned that we sometimes have difficulty actually taking an entire day for Sabbath.*
*** SEE BOTTOM OF PAGE 5 FOR "JUNE QUESTION OF THE MONTH"**

Greetings to everyone at aftsville!

I have just returned to our home base in Java after working with MCC in Aceh. I know some of you have been getting my news emails over the last 8 months as I have been traveling to remote locations to try and find the right place to start a combined human and environmental health program. Thank you also to so many of you who have helped support this work both directly and through the church. We are hoping by Fall (and hopefully sooner) we will have chosen a location.

These last 8 months have been a powerful time of learning about the state of healthcare and the environment in this country. Both are, unfortunately, not doing well. Within the last 12 years, 70% of the forest has been cut and since 2002 half of the wild orangutan population has been killed. What is more terrifying for me is that what little is left is also seriously threatened. Indonesia has the world's worst rate of deforestation and at the current rate it is predicted to all be gone by 2010. The state of healthcare is similarly bad. Indonesia has the third highest number of tuberculosis cases after India and China and multi-dug resistant TB is rampant because of poor coordination of care. The mortality rate for children under age five is up to 30% in some areas and maternal mortality is shockingly common. The reasons for these poor health indicators are complex including poor access to care for rural peoples (both through distance and expense) and poor quality of care when they get it. My experience is that most doctors and nurses here want to do a good job but they have unfortunately generally been very poorly trained. As an example in one clinic I visited the number one medicine they dispensed was a powerful steroid called dexamethasone. Because steroids act by dampening the immune system they probably do make people feel better but at the cost of terrible long-term side effects. In the US, dexamethasone is only used as a last resort for autoimmune diseases. This clinic was giving steroids out more than aspirin, Tylenol, malaria medicines or even antibiotics (which are also given way too frequently). The good news though is that almost all of the doctors and nurses I have met here are desperate to learn and catch on very quickly.



I have also been learning from other health and environmental programs. Some of these are very successful and others are examples of pitfalls to try and be avoided. A man in a village near a struggling missionary hospital says to me; "You know, in the old days those missionaries were crazy, they took care of people for free all the time but, oddly there was always money left over. Now the hospital focuses on making money and there is never enough. I guess that's how God works." I think this is right. If your heart is in the right place, everyone sees it and that draws patients and good people to help. When the vision of service is lost there is a certain magic that also goes. Nurses and doctors don't smile as much at the patients, patients worry decisions might be made just for profit, and those grateful people who got care for free are not spreading the word about how wonderful the hospital is. I have seen this principle in both positive and negative ways at many hospitals and clinics across Indonesia. Paradoxically pursuing wealth may mean there is never enough. Sometimes I feel like this spiritual truth has also been lived out for me in Indonesia since I feel wealthier than I ever felt in the States despite forgoing a high salary (for the price we paid for a month's rent in the Bay Area we have rented a house three times the size for an entire year).

These last weeks in Aceh also taught me another powerful spiritual lesson. Great goodness can come out of great badness. I spent 6 weeks in Aceh a month after the Tsunami and came home torn to pieces. There was

so much death, so much sadness, and so much destruction. From morning to night for six weeks straight I heard the worst stories I have ever heard. I found it very hard to see God at that time. What I am about to say does not make the suffering OK, but what has happened there is a remarkable transformation. It is clear that in many ways, Aceh is better off after the Tsunami than they were before. The rice fields are now producing four times what they were before the Tsunami and metaphorically many other things seemed the same. Hundreds of thousands of people are trading small wooden houses for big brick ones, new fancy roads are going in everywhere, all the hospitals and health clinics have been rebuilt or renovated, new water systems have been put in, fishermen are in new boats and, best of all, there is peace. Aceh had been fighting a separatist war for more than 30 years and people are overjoyed to have the conflict resolved. People constantly described how nice it was to be able to travel freely and not to have to worry about being beaten or killed (by either side). Overall, it was really fun to see what international attention, lots of money and good will have done for Aceh.

One woman said to me: "Aceh no longer cries, now we smile." This is not completely true because many people are still greatly mourning the loss of their loved ones and some people who did not lose their houses or close family members seem to be almost worse off because they don't feel they have a right to be suffering. But one wonderful interchange I witnessed gave me real hope. I was examining a lovely woman in her late 40s to early 50s who was complaining of back pain. In the village mobile clinics there was no privacy at all and everyone sat around listening to me talk to each patient and occasionally adding their own comments. Having heard me often describe stress as a possible reason for the myriad complaints like headaches, poor appetite, and poor sleep, a man about her age calls out, "Do you think her back pain is from stress? Don't you think she would get better if she was married!" It turned out this man and woman both lost their spouses in the Tsunami. After quite a bit of playful interchange where I also requested an invitation to any potential weddings, finally he turns to her and says, "Was that a yes?" and she laughingly smiled at him and demurely nodded. Many marriages of that generation in Aceh were arranged marriages so this may be a surprising opportunity for happiness for them.

So, I left early. I was having lots of fun in Aceh but I couldn't justify being there when the need was overwhelmingly being met. I have to admit that there were times when I wished for just a little of the money being so lavishly spent on Aceh to be shared with other parts of Indonesia that are in such desperate need. As an example, MCC was doing a good job building houses and supporting a small health program with part of the over 20 million dollars they received for Tsunami relief despite never having even asked for money. One of the problems with all this money in Aceh is that Indonesian doctors are being drawn in from other parts of Indonesia by the high salaries. Indonesia already has the lowest number of doctors of all the ASEAN nations at 1.1 per 100,000 (compared to 28 in the US) but even this number is misleading because almost all of these doctors are clustered in Java and Sumatra. In Eastern Indonesia only 14% of the government clinics have doctors (one clinic per 30,000 people). I am now preparing for our next survey trip that will take us to three places in Eastern Indonesia: Sulawesi, Halmahera and Irian Jaya. The preparation involves tracking down as many people as possible that know these areas and requesting advice about specific locations and people to talk to. Working in Indonesia is a lesson in patience and trusting God because nothing is easy and everything takes longer than you think it will.

I am hoping that despite the horrible destruction of much of the rain forest in Indonesia and the extreme poverty of its rural people, like in Aceh, goodness can come out of it. I am hoping that with international attention, a little bit of well-placed money and lots of good will, we can help work towards a healthier Indonesia. The Balinese have a wonderful saying that a healthy community is held up by three pillars: healthy people, a healthy natural environment, and a healthy spiritual life. I think the same can be said for the planet and I thank all of you for working in myriads of ways on each of these pillars and for helping us to do our small part in Indonesia. Please remember you are all welcome at any time to come and visit.

With best wishes,
Kinari Webb
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www.healthinharmony.org

LATEST UPDATE FROM INDONESIA – EARTHQUAKE RELIEF:
Cam & Kinari are fine, and ask for prayer for the people who have lost their homes. To download the report on helping with the earthquake relief go to their website: www.healthinharmony.org/reports.html

Schedule for June

Each Sunday morning: 9:30 am – Worship Service

10:45 am – Coffee and Fellowship

The 11 o'clock Sunday School/ Second Hour will resume in September

- June 3 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast / *Dana’s*
- 7 7:00 pm – Pastoral Care Team Meeting
- 9 6:00 pm – Young Adult Potluck / *TBA*
- 10 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast / *Dana’s*
- 11 EKKLESIA
- 12 Fall ’06 Teacher’s Meeting with Randy
- 13 Randy begins Sabbatical / *ends October 24th*
- 18 FATHER’S DAY
- 25 Birthday Song for May & June
- 26 Deadline for July issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*
- 28 7.00 pm – Church Council Meeting / *Church*

➔ **Mark your calendar for these upcoming Summer events:**

- **July 12** – Annual Meeting 7pm at church
- **July 16** – Church held at Bethany Birches Camp followed by BBQ
- **August 13** – Church held at Groton Campgrounds

June Birthdays

3 rd Jenny Shaw	9 th Mike McCrory
5 th Kevin Cox	16 th Ken Glick
6 th John Lutz	18 th Rebekah Deitrich
7 th Seth Eisenberg	27 th Vickie Eisenberg
8 th Roy Aloisio	

Taftsville Tally		
	Attendance	Offering
May - 7 th	52	\$1,757.21
14 th	53	1,887.25
21 st	58	1,584.60
28 th	50	1,027.25

June Anniversaries

2nd Vera & Lewis Fogg
 3rd Janice & Omar Zook
 16th Virginia & Abner Schlabach

June Song Leaders

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

June Childcare Schedule

4th Nancy Pejouhy
 11th Janet North
 18th Mary Guntz
 25th Laura Beidler

June Cleaning Schedule

4th Esch
 11th Guntz
 18th Guntz
 25th Esch

“JUNE QUESTION OF THE MONTH” *(Please mark your responses, tear off this section, and deposit in the White Box)*

How many of us plant a vegetable garden??

_____ I always do

_____ I never have

_____ I hope to

Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

35 Years Ago This Month

June 10, 1971

John was contacted by the Woodstock Public Schools as to the possibility of renting the Taftsville Church for special education classes during the coming school year. The council decided it was not feasible to rent the building for such a project.

June 10, 1971

Richard will contact one of the Taftsville neighbor boys to discuss their mowing the ball field this summer.

30 Years Ago This Month

June 8, 1976

A considerable amount of time was spent in discussing our belief and purpose of baptism and church membership.

June 8, 1976

A record player is being purchased for the nursery Sunday School class.

25 Years Ago This Month

June 10, 1981

Candlelighters met at Dana's for an enjoyable breakfast of cheese omelettes, juice, English muffins, coffee. Seven women were present. After breakfast we all took a few minutes to tell of our summer plans.

June 4, 1981

John and Gail Hutchinson, Wycliffe Missionaries, write: "We cannot express in words our heartfelt thanks for your generous and loving gift towards our car fund!"

20 Years Ago This Month

June 26, 1986

An effort will be made to provide a bit more break between Sunday School and Worship. The first bell in Sunday School will ring at 10:20 and the second one at 10:25. Worship will begin at 10:30.

15 Years Ago This Month

June 10, 1991

The church council enjoyed refreshments on the Glick deck.

10 Years Ago This Month

June 1, 1996

The Sunday School (k-5) will be combined for the summer. Mary Guntz is putting together a schedule for teaching times.

*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,
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