



# 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

May 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*

## **"Come with me ... to a quiet place and get some rest. Mark 6:31**

When Jesus' ministry began, he was sought after by many, and was very much in demand. People wanted to hear him teach, to be healed, to touch him and be touched by him, to receive God's love and hope which he brought to them anew. But he was human too. Many times it is mentioned in the Gospels that Jesus "withdrew to lonely places and prayed," or he "walked out by the lake" or he "went up the mountainside to pray." He needed time to be with his Father and to rest.

Another sabbatical? Randy and Carie will be gone?! For how long? How will we continue our services without him? Does this mean I have to volunteer more? Maybe I won't come to church as much during his absence. What if I need to talk to him about a problem? These thoughts undoubtedly have run through the minds of Taftsville Chapel's members since the announcement that Randy and Carie would be gone for 4 months.

The obvious role of a pastor is their many sermons, teaching events, their participation in worship service. But it doesn't end with Sunday's sermon. Their role is continuous. They are always on call. They are a counselor and/or spiritual director to many, and it can be very draining. They cannot leave their job at the end of the day and go home.

In a previous job working as a secretary-office administrator at a church, I became very aware of the strong demands and high stress levels that clergy work under. For a pastor to be effective as a spiritual leader and counselor, it is absolutely necessary for him to go to a "quiet place and get some rest." I want our pastor to be able to spend time in prayer, mediation, and reflection. I want him to rest and play. I want him to be healthy and have God-confidence. A sabbatical is his time for spiritual, mental, and physical renewal.

Pastors are human. They sometimes need to be reminded to take a sabbatical because they are inclined to continue help, guide, and teach others, and feel a bit guilty about taking this leave time. Not only should pastors take a sabbatical of several months after a period of extended employment, but also it is necessary for them to take daily mini-sabbaticals while they are actively pastoring.

Pastoral sabbaticals are also good for us, the congregation. A sabbatical helps us to keep Randy, as pastor, in perspective. He is our brother in Christ. We always need to respect and pray for him, but we need not put him on a pedestal and rely on him for all our spiritual needs. This is our time to reflect on our role in the Taftsville Chapel community. It is not a time to pull back, but instead we need to participate in supporting and encouraging each other on a regular basis. We will be blessed with spiritual growth as we come together.

As a member of Taftsville Chapel I want to express my support for Randy and Carie as they plan for their 4-month sabbatical after an extended period of pastor work among us. We'll miss you, Randy and Carie. We will keep you in our prayers and ask for God's rich blessings to pour over you during this time.

*Jan Collins, Church Council Member-at-Large*

- "Come...get some rest" ----- 1
- Randy's Sabbatical Letter ---- 2
- Palm Sunday ----- 2
- Resurrection Day ----- 3
- Words from the artist----- 3
- Bits & Pieces ----- 4
- The way to San Jose----- 4
- Reflections on BBC----- 4
- R & C Thank You Letter --- 5
- For the Garden... ----- 5
- Response to April question 5
- Health in Harmony ----- 6
- May Schedule ----- 7
- Birthdays----- 7
- Anniversaries----- 7
- Song Leaders ----- 7
- Childcare Schedule----- 7
- Cleaning Schedule----- 7
- Tally for April----- 7
- Question of the Month ----- 7
- Tidbit Trivia ----- 8

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## Randy's Sabbatical Letter to the Congregation

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Dear Taftsville Brothers and Sisters,

The time since our sabbatical in 2001 seems to have gone by so quickly. They say good times seem to do that. The congregation has been through some changes, some painful and some joyful. One thing that hasn't changed is that we continue to be deeply grateful to you all for the grace and love you give us so freely. This sabbatical coming up feels to us like more of the same – a gracious loving gift, and an investment in our life together as a fellowship. Thank you.

Donella has, again, encouraged me to undertake something “simple and refreshing”. I have two main things in mind that I think fit those guidelines well. One is to spend some uninterrupted time working with my hands, both in the shop on some creative projects and on the house. Both will be fun. The relative “quiet” that comes over me during times like that is profoundly restoring. Go figure.

The other main idea is to do some serious connecting and interacting with another church in Franconia Conference, New Beginnings Fellowship, and their pastor, Jon Moore. New Beginnings is a multi-ethnic church near Philly, and I really like Jon. I wonder if some kind of “sister church” relationship might come out of spending some time with them and Jon? The Conference has given a green light to see what happens. The sabbatical time will allow us to spend some unhurried time down there and get to know people. Who knows what kind of richness we might bring back!

One of the things Moses asked the Lord on the way from captivity in Egypt to the Promised Land was “...teach me Your ways, that I may know You...” and the Lord's only response was “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest” (Ex.33: 13-14). I trust that in this next season we will all experience His presence and rest, and in allowing that, we'll know Him and His way still more fully.

Warm blessings!

*Randy and Carie*

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## Palm Sunday Service *Photo by A & V Schlabach*

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## Resurrection Day



To remember Jesus' sacrifice for us and to celebrate His resurrection a group of early risers gathered at the church at 7:00am to participate in our Annual Cross Walk. It was a cool, brisk walk up the hill behind our church with members taking turns carrying the heavy cross, switching at each scripture/song stop. This was a very meaningful event that reinforced to each one of us how much God loves us by providing a way for us to be united with Him.

After our walk we enjoyed a delicious breakfast together.

At 9:30am as we entered our worship gathering room we were enthralled at the two beautiful, colorful paintings hanging on the front wall. Each painting simulated stained glass windows incorporating meaningful symbols of our faith. **Thank you Monica Esch for sharing your gift with all of us. Here are the two paintings.**

*Photos by B Collins*



### Words from the Artist:

Some of my thoughts as I was creating the panels hanging in church:

Randy was talking about Hebrews 4:13, Jesus' temptations and how he can relate to us. The inspiration came from thinking about what makes me identify with Jesus which in turn leads me to feel I can "boldly approach the throne of grace."

The content of the panels speaks to Jesus' humanity and divinity. Psalm 139's reference of being knit together in the womb was read during Lent. It was after that service that I went home and sketched out the panels.

They were drawn on canvas that afternoon and I had them mostly completed within two week's time. Jesus came in human form, beginning with the vulnerability of being an infant. The plants represent Jesus being rooted and of the earth. He can identify with my dirt. To me, the lily brings to mind the words in Matthew 5 about not being anxious about our life. The wheat can represent being like the grass that withers, but I was also thinking of the analogy out of an old scripture-based song "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies- where is its life?" The communion elements serve to show Jesus' brokenness and sacrifice -and the footwashing, his humility.

The candle is light chasing away darkness.

These were just some of my thoughts during the process, but certainly not the only things that can come to mind when thinking about these familiar, elemental symbols.

*Monica Esch*

### **Do you know the way to San Jose?**

Because that's where the Youth are headed! The next Mennonite Youth Convention will be held in San Jose, California from July 2nd through 7th, 2007. The new theme will be "Live the Call". It may seem like July 2007 is a long way off, but the number of youth planning to attend has doubled, and that means that it's going to cost more. So, we decided to start our fundraising early. As a group we have come-up with several ideas. If you have any additional ideas, please feel free to contact any member of the youth group, Nancy Pejouhy or Carol Whitney, the two brave souls who are planning to go to San Jose with the youth. Here are some of our ideas:

- Meals served at Church (similar to the Valentine's meal from last year). Each meal will have a different exciting theme.
- Take-out meals that will be ready after the Second Hour on select Sundays.
- An auction where individuals will be able to buy a Youth for an hour or two, or even a whole day of labor.
- And other fun and exciting fundraisers yet to be discovered!

Thanks in advanced for your support as we prepare for our trip to San Jose.

*Taftsville Youth Group  
(Laura, Emily, McKenzie, Hunter and Hudson)*

### **Reflections on Bethany Birches Camp**

When my husband, Russell, popped into my 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom one day last week, one of my students recognized him as the "chef" at Bethany Birches Camp a few years ago. This prompted several other students to proclaim that they, too, knew him from Bethany Birches. Curious, I asked the class of twenty students how many of them had attended the camp and was amazed when more than half raised their hands. A lively discussion ensued about camp and how much they had enjoyed their summers there. Most of these kids have seldom, if ever, set foot in a church, yet they carry in their hearts the message of Christ's love that they heard and experienced at Bethany Birches Camp. Praise God!

As the camping season approaches, let's all try to remember to lift Brandon and the staff in prayer as they minister to hundreds of spiritually hungry kids. And yes, Russell will again be the "chef" for the summer.

*Nancy Pejouhy*



**Spring Communion**

*Photo by A & V Schlabach*

## Letter of Thanks from Carie & Randy

Our dear family at Taftsville,

Thank you so much for your kind thoughts and your prayers during this most difficult week. It was abundantly clear that the Lord was keeping and guiding us all, both in the details and in the raw relationships surfacing in every direction, and your care was encouragement we needed.

My brother Carter had struggled mightily all his life against yielding to the love God, but in the last two months, we three believing siblings each had an opportunity for long conversations with him, and it was evident his heart was opening and softening for the first time. He was willing to hear the plain gospel truth, and was asking questions. We discovered a new Bible on his coffee table, obviously being read; and though he had a collection of thousands of rock & roll cds, the only disk in his cd changer was Christian praise music. Just days before he died he had had a long conversation with his estranged wife, and she shared with joyful tears that it was like none she'd ever had with him, filled with peace, love and hope.

In my brother-in-law's brief message at the funeral, he comforted and encouraged us all with the story of the Prodigal Son, reminding us that it was while the son was yet still a long way off that the Father ran to him, and brought him home.

There are so many stories of God's hand at work throughout the week, and we know that your prayers have been a part of that work. Please receive our humble thanksgiving.

With grateful love,  
Your brother and sister,  
*Randy and Carie*

### FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING

#### Plant 3 rows of Peas:

Peas of mind  
Peas of heart  
Peas of soul

#### Plant 4 rows of Squash:

Squash gossip  
Squash indifference  
Squash grumbling  
Squash selfishness

#### Plant 4 rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be kind  
Lettuce be gentle  
Lettuce be patient  
Lettuce love one another

#### No garden is without Turnips:

Turnip for meetings  
Turnip for service  
Turnip to help one another

#### Our garden also needs Thyme:

Thyme for prayer  
Thyme for each other  
Thyme for family  
Thyme for friends

Water freely with faithfulness  
and cultivate with love.

Enjoy the fruit of your garden  
as you reap what you have sown.

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

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38% of the congregation responded to the April Question of the month.

Of those responding:

- 84% feel that Sharing Time during Sunday morning Worship is an important part of our spiritual community
- 16% find it distracting and/or not meaningful
- 79% would like to leave it as it is
- 21% would like to move it to *Second Hour* and/or structure it



Fill out your  
form today &  
bring to church!

**\* SEE BOTTOM OF PAGE 7 FOR "MAY QUESTION OF THE MONTH"**

**Dear Friends,**

Thank you all so much for all you have made possible so far out here in Indonesia. I am learning so much about health care and the state of the environment and what sorts of programs have been successful and what haven't. We are also making good progress in setting up the administrative structure out here. It has been a very busy month and a half with trips to Central Java, West Kalimantan, Singapore, and Bali squeezed in.

**Highlights:**

1) We are close to finalizing a wonderful partnership with a successful non-profit organization here in Indonesia that is interested in expanding their work from environmental and development projects to health care. The organization is called INI RADEF (Indonesian International Rural & Agricultural Development Foundation-[www.indonesiandevelopment.com](http://www.indonesiandevelopment.com)) and they have agreed to sponsor me for a long-term work visa and to provide support during the initial development phase. This is wonderful news as it means we can easily channel funds and equipment from abroad and hire people as needed with the support of a trustworthy organization.

2) Dr. Irene Kaber and I visited a Mennonite hospital in West Java that is famous for being the best hospital in the area. We learned about the importance of transparency in hospital fees and paying competitive salaries to avoid corruption. We were also strongly warned about working with government hospitals no matter how good it sounds by three German women who had worked in a government hospital in Kalimantan for 15 years. They said they were continually frustrated by the corruption and jealousy they experienced (I have heard stories where 90% of a hospital's budget disappears before being actually used for patient care).

3) I returned to Bethesda hospital in West Kalimantan for two weeks and learned more about hospital administration (both successful and unsuccessful methods) and about tropical medicine. It was fun to practice as a consultant and help teach the young Indonesian doctors. It was so clear to me again how desperately this country needs improved medical care. Do you remember "R" and "A" who have a rare form of Parkinson's disease but who got much better when taking powdered Macuna beans? I got to see A and was very sad to see him back on the L-dopa pills because they ran out of Macuna beans. They have planted more but pigs destroyed quite a few of their plants and the crop hasn't come in. We also have some growing in our garden in Bogor but our beans aren't ripe yet either. They were much stiffer and there were tears in R's eyes as he told me about their difficulties. He also said they have no money to fix their roof and it is leaking terribly (if anyone wants to help with this it would cost \$75 to fix).

**Next Steps**

I will work for one month in Aceh with Mennonite Central Committee (April 17-May 15) doing Tsunami relief work and considering Aceh for a potential place for us to work. It has been 15 months since we were last there and I am interested to see how things have changed. I hope it will be somewhat better but I wonder whether it is ever possible to recover from the horrors people experienced. Do you ever recover from having your children ripped from your arms or losing all 30 of your family members?

After returning Cam and I will survey the last major sites we are considering for starting the combined health and environmental project. We will visit Northern Sulawesi, Halmahera and Irian Jaya. All of these places are reported to still have good rain forest left and have very poor health services.

**Current Needs For Health In Harmony**

- 1) As always, your donations are greatly appreciated. If you would like to contribute again or for the first time, please send a check to "Health in Harmony."
- 2) I would love to have one or two people come out and help in the Fall. By Fall we will have chosen a location and it would be wonderful if someone with creative vision (ideally a doctor but not necessarily so) would like to come out for 6 months to a year and help set our health and environmental work on a solid foundation.

I hope you are all doing well. Thanks for sending emails. It is great to feel connected to friends despite being so far away and to hear so many encouraging words. I think it is clear to many of us that a broader vision of a healthy world is needed. Not only do humans need compassionate, skillful medical care but also they need a healthy natural environment to live in and work that promotes their children's future, not destroys it. We are starting small but hopefully we will be an example for others. Thank you for believing in the vision!

With blessings, *Kinari*

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The mission of Health in Harmony 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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USA

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## Schedule for May

Each Sunday morning: 9:30 am – Worship Service

10:45 am – Coffee and Fellowship

11:00 am – Second Hour (Ends on May 21<sup>st</sup> – Resumes in September)

- May 6 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast / TBA  
 11 6:00 pm – Young Adult Potluck / TBA  
 13 8:00 am – Women’s Breakfast / Dana’s  
 14 MOTHER’S DAY  
     Adult Second Hour on “Community” led by Sheldon Esch  
 19 Women’s Weekend @ Bethany Birches Camp - Dance Along the Journey  
 21 Last Second Hour until September  
 24 7.00 pm – Church Council Meeting / Church  
 30 Deadline for June issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*

### May Birthdays

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lynda Knisley  
 5<sup>th</sup> Deb du Plessis  
 9<sup>th</sup> Karen Cox  
 17<sup>th</sup> Anna Abetti  
 26<sup>th</sup> Tim Guntz  
 31<sup>st</sup> Tara Kishbaugh

### May Anniversaries

- 11<sup>th</sup> Mary & Allen Guntz  
 25<sup>th</sup> Mary & Glenn Fullerton  
 28<sup>th</sup> Janet North & Fred Schlabach

Taftsville Tally		
	Attendance	Offering
Apr. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	37	\$1,836.25
9 <sup>th</sup>	68	2,005.00
16 <sup>th</sup>	53	1,265.75
23 <sup>rd</sup>	36	1,076.00
30 <sup>th</sup>	34	1,227.50

### May Song Leaders

- 7<sup>th</sup> Omar Zook  
 14<sup>th</sup> Karen Cox  
 21<sup>st</sup> Janet North  
 28<sup>th</sup> Virginia Schlabach

### May Childcare Schedule

- 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Schlabach  
 14<sup>th</sup> Emily Glick  
 21<sup>st</sup> Carmeleta Beidler  
 28<sup>th</sup> Carie Good

### May Cleaning Schedule

- 7<sup>th</sup> Ken Glick  
 14<sup>th</sup> Ken Glick  
 21<sup>st</sup> Richard Glick  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Richard Glick

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

To me, the idea of taking a full Sabbath Day each week is

\_\_\_\_\_ very spiritually meaningful

\_\_\_\_\_ makes me feel guilty

\_\_\_\_\_ if I do

\_\_\_\_\_ if I do not

\_\_\_\_\_ a day like any other day

\_\_\_\_\_ a new idea

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

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### 35 Years ago this Month

*May 11, 1971*

There was a discussion concerning reverence inside our church building. It was suggested that after dismissal, we file outside, or to the other side, keeping the main worship center a more quiet place. Loud noises, pushing and running inside the building will be at a minimum.

### 30 Years ago this Month

*May 8, 1976*

This will be the day for our Spring communion, Love Feast and Work Day. Supper will be at 5:30.

### 25 Years ago this Month

*May 31, 1981*

Congratulations to our graduating seniors! Todd, Brent, Ken, Lorne, Jane, and Glenda.

### 20 Years ago this Month

*May 7, 1986*

A number of summer social activities will be planned. Look for more details about a trip to Boston to see the Red Sox, a horse-shoe pitch, a mountain climb, a fishing trip, or a bike ride.

### 15 Years ago this Month

*May 13, 1991*

"Take note that the youth have signed up to clean the church."

### 10 Years ago this Month

*May 9, 1996*

Marty offered a letter of resignation. Her last Sunday with us will be July 21.

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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*

### **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

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Taftsville Chapel

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