



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

April 2007

“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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His tomb is empty...

Every culture and religion in history has given considerable energy to remembering the dead. Ancestor worship is still actively practiced in numerous ways, sometimes in ritualistic, formal ceremonies and sometimes subconsciously, with the memory of the dead exerting some form of influence in the lives of the living. The followers of eastern and oriental religions acknowledge that their founders are dead. The positive moral influence present in these religions springs from carefully following the teachings of their key, deceased prophets. Much good can be done in the name of, and in reverent memory of, a founding religious prophet. The resulting form of worship in this kind of system is built around coaxing the worshippers to live lives (or die deaths) worthy of the memory of a departed teacher.

The Old Testament records the Jews looking to their dead ancestors in the faith for direction, inspiration and security in their relationship with God. While not exactly ancestor worship, these key figures continued to be vital reference points for the daily faith and practice of faithful Israel. Then, in the fullness of time, along came Jesus Christ: Immanuel, God with us.

Looking to the past instead of the present is a hard tendency to overcome – especially in worship. The angels at the tomb challenged the women with this: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” In other words, if it’s Jesus you are really looking for, you won’t find Him along with the other dead great prophets or teachers. You can’t continue to look where you are used to looking. “He is not here; He has risen, just as He said He would...” Even to the disciples who had followed Him and heard His teaching directly, the report that He was now alive seemed like nonsense to them.

At any time of year, but especially as Resurrection Day gets close, all this informs how and why we worship. When we gather as a worshipping community on Sundays, we are not attending a memorial service held in the memory of a dead prophet, priest, or king. We are not meeting to remind ourselves of an obligation to the reputation of the dear departed, or even to reminisce in a loving way about what a great person Jesus was. We are gathered not to just look back; we are gathered to look up. We are gathered not to just discuss the living God, but to *meet* with Him, greet Him and worship Him as He is: Alive now.

Perhaps this unnerves some of us a bit. We know it’s thought of as rude, if not disrespectful, to talk about someone standing next to us in a group as if they’re not there, yet we sometimes seem to want some distance from the living presence of Jesus. Why is this so? What would we need to believe about Him to approach Him with confidence and joy?

No matter what form worship takes (four part harmony, choruses, silence, liturgy, etc.), if our inner approach is with the hushed, cautious mood of a funeral, then we are still “looking among the dead”. He is not there. Maybe if we could see the empty tomb for ourselves...

-Randy Good, Pastor

Maundy Thursday / Resurrection Day

There will be a Maundy-Thursday service on April 5, beginning at 7 pm.

We will begin in the sanctuary and move throughout the building for the Stations of the Cross. These refer to the depiction of the final hours (or Passion) of Jesus and the devotion commemorating the Passion. The object of the stations is to help us to make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer to the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death.

The First Station - Jesus prays in the garden

The Second Station - Jesus is betrayed by Judas

The Third Station - Jesus is denied by Peter

The Fourth Station - Jesus is judged by Pilate

The Fifth Station - Jesus is flogged and crowned with thorns

The Sixth Station - Jesus carries his cross

The Seventh Station - Jesus is crucified

We will end with hand and feet washing and communion. We hope that this service will help you move through this season of Christ's sufferings and death in a thoughtful and meaningful way.

- Janet North and Virginia Schlabach

Easter Morning Walk— Celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

If anyone is out and about early on **EASTER MORNING** in Taftsville, they may notice a small cluster of pilgrims carrying a large wooden cross, silently making their way up the hillside behind the Chapel. If they listen carefully, they may even hear strains of familiar resurrection hymns echoing through the valley.

Each Easter morning for about 23 years, we have gathered at the Chapel for our sunrise service, or Resurrection Walk. We take turns, usually two at a time, shouldering the heavy cross as we make our way up the road. We stop from time to time to join our voices in song, to meditate on the scripture story, and to share the burden bearing the cross. It is a quiet and solemn journey, reflecting on our Lord's burden on our behalf. Then we reach the end of the walk, and turn around. The glorious valley opens out before us in the fresh morning light just as Jesus' resurrection opened our entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Back at the Chapel, we enjoy breakfast and fellowship together, and gather for our regular service at 9:30. This Easter morning, April 8, we will be leaving the Chapel at 7:00 AM for our traditional Resurrection Walk. We hope all who are able will join us for this special time together.

-Adapted from the April 2004 issue of
The Taftsville Chapel Current

A Morning Meditation

Author Unknown

I am God's child again today.

I have already been given all I need.

God is with me now.

Wherever I go, His peace goes with me.

God's love sustains me in everything I do today.

My teacher, the Holy Spirit,
is always within me.

I am not a victim of the world I see today. I am responsible for what I think and feel about it.

I face today confident and unafraid because Jesus is with me.

I see the abundance of God in creation today.

The joy of the Lord is my strength today.

I forgive today by a power not my own,
but which is within me.

I walk with gratitude the way of love today.

God is my help in every need today.

A favorite prayer of Monica Esch

Resurrection Cookies

Ingredients:

1 cup whole-kernel shelled pecans
1 tsp. vinegar Pinch of salt
3 egg whites 1 cup sugar

Supplies:

BIBLE, mixing bowl, electric mixer, rolling pin, Ziploc bag, waxed paper, cookie sheet, tape

Preheat oven to 300°. Place PECANS in Ziploc bag and let the children beat them with the rolling pin to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, he was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read JOHN 19:1-3.

Let the children smell the VINEGAR. Put vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, he was given vinegar to drink. Read JOHN 19:28-30.

Add EGG whites to the vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave his life to give us life. Read JOHN 10:10,11.

Sprinkle a little SALT into each child's hand. Let them taste it. Brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that the salt represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers and the bitterness of our own sin. Read LUKE 23:27.

So far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add SUGAR. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because he loves us. Read PSALM 34:8 and JOHN 3:16.

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 1-5 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read ISAIAH 1:18 and JOHN 3:1-3.

Gently fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto waxed-paper-covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read MATTHEW 27:65-66.

Put cookie sheet into the oven, close the door, and turn the oven off. Give each child a piece of tape to seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read MATTHEW 27:65,66.

GO TO BED! Explain to the children that they may be sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were sad when the tomb was sealed. Read JOHN 16:20 and 22.

ON RESURRECTION MORNING, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. Notice the cookies are hollow! On the first resurrection day, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read MATTHEW 28:1-9. JESUS HAS RISEN! HALLELUJAH! JESUS HAS RISEN!

My friend Charlotte Croft gave me this recipe. Make these cookies as a family worship experience on the night before Easter, "bake" them all night, and eat on Easter morning. Read the whole recipe before beginning. - Adapted by Virginia Schlabach

Family of the Month

Each month we will feature a family/person along with some of their favorite Bible verses/passages or stories.

Richard Glick is the photographer and is collecting these photos to compile into a pictorial directory - coming in the future.



The Beck Family – MaryBeth, Kerry, Mim, Denver & Mara

Favorite Verses and Stories

Kerry

He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. *Isaiah 2:4*

MaryBeth

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you. *I Thessalonians 4:11*

Mara – Story of Esther

Mim – Creation Story

Denver – Christmas Story

From the Leadership Team: Adult Second Hour

For the past several Sundays, Randy has been leading the adult second hour discussion to talk further about the sermon text, and how it applies to our daily lives. We will be continuing this format for the spring quarter. Coming up on April 22, following a sermon on Worship, the second hour will focus on worship at Taftsville. We will be looking at the goals and elements of worship, prayer, sharing, worship leading, singing and song leading. This discussion will continue on April 29 following the Song Service. Randy will have some interactive questions, and maybe even a Show-and-Tell. It would be beneficial if everyone could participate. Please remember to mark these dates on your calendar, and plan to attend the adult second hour on April 22 and 29, to think and talk together about our worship.

In Appreciation

How does one explain the book of Romans to children? If you're Carol Whitney, you use fairy tales, masks, glitter, toilet paper, pineapples, construction cones, and of course, candy! For the last 10 Sundays, Carol has delighted children of all ages with her unexpected, colorful and enchanting lessons. The youth have been her able assistants, helping out in the roles of Jesus, Angels, and Things Unimaginable, as well as the much-needed cleaner-uppers. We have all been drawn deeper into this difficult book, as Carol has made the truths of the gospel accessible to all.

Thank you Carol!

Twin Girls

Omar and Janice Zook announce the arrival of their first grandchildren, Mara Beth and Lisa Renae on March 21st weighing in at 5 pounds 2 ounces and 5 pounds. The girls and their parents, Angie and Delmar Zimmerman, are doing well.



Schedule for April

Each Sunday morning: 9:30 am – Worship Service

10:45 am – Coffee and Fellowship

11:00 am – Second Hour / Sunday School

- April**
- 1** PALM SUNDAY – Regular Sunday Schedule
 - 5** 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday Service, Communion & Foot washing
 - 7** 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast / *Sugar House in Bethel*
 - 8** EASTER
 - 7:00 am – Easter Walk
 - 8:30 am – Breakfast
 - 9:30 am – Easter Service

Please note: No Second Hour/Sunday School on Easter
 - 13** 6:00 pm – Young Adult Potluck / TBA
 - 14** 8:00 am – Women’s Breakfast / *The Creamry in Woodstock*
 - 15** 9:30 am – Ekklesia
 - 24** Deadline for May issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*
 - 25** Pastoral Care Team Meeting
 - 27** Deadline for May Calendar Events
 - 29** 9:30 am – Song Service
 - Birthday Song for March and April

April Birthdays

- 9th Jake Reese
- 20th Mabel McCrory
- 21st McKenzie Clifford
- 22nd Homer Welch
- 23rd Melissa Ayers
- 25th Ted Shattuck
- 25th Gavin Eisenberg

April Anniversaries

- 4th Dave & Carmeleta Beidler
- 14th Bob & Jan Collins
- 22nd Ted & Elinor Shattuck

April Song Leaders Schedule

- 1st Karen Cox
- 8th Rebekah Deitrich
- 15th Allison Fletcher
- 22nd Janet North
- 29th Omar Zook

April Childcare Schedule

- 1st Mary Guntz
- 8th Carie Good
- 15th Laura Beidler
- 22nd Emily Glick
- 29th Janet North

April Coffee Schedule

- 1st Richard & Ruth Ann Glick
- 8th Mary Guntz
- 15th Joan Alderfer
- 22nd Abner Schlabach
- 29th Karen Cox

April Cleaning Schedule

- 1st Youth
- 8th Hackman
- 15th McCrory
- 22nd McCrory
- 29th North/Schlabach

Taftsville Tally		
	Attendance	Offering
March 4th	----- no record -----	----- \$-
11th	----- no record -----	
18th	----- 51 -----	----- \$1,189.00
25th	----- 55 -----	----- 788.00
<i>Please note that these totals do not always reflect the final tally.</i>		

Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

Do you remember when...

40 Years Ago This Month

April 23, 1967

We decided to hold one Sunday evening service per month during the summer. The Richard Glicks are in charge of our first meeting.

35 Years Ago This Month

April 4, 1972

Improvements to the parking lot and additional coat racks was tabled for later discussion. Monthly offering will be given to MCC for Bangladesh relief.

30 Years Ago This Month

April 12, 1977

A phone has been installed at the church building.

April 30, 1977

Vermont Churches Workshop Weekend. The speaker will be G. Irvin Lehman, speaking on "The Second Coming of the Lord". Two services will be held at Taftsville: Saturday afternoon at 2:30 and Saturday evening at 7:00 pm.; Candlelighters will be in charge of a light meal before the evening service. Sunday meetings will be at Bethany.

20 Years Ago This Month

April 7, 1987

In view of Nelson and Ellen's plans to leave Vermont in August, a Pastoral Search committee is recommended consisting of the Pastoral Care Team, the Administrator, and one other person. This group will work closely with overseer Noah Kolb in contacting possible candidates.

15 Years Ago This Month

April 6, 1992

The LIFE (Living in Faithful Evangelism) videotape was viewed and discussed. Do we want to participate in this program in total or in part? Please give your ideas to a church council member.

10 Years Ago This Month

April 17, 1997

Randy and Carie met with the Board of Directors of the Mid Vermont Christian School after learning of some past issues with Taftsville. A letter has been received from the school apologizing for their part in the misunderstanding.

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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