



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 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

CHURCH

"We believe that the CHURCH is the Family of God with Christ as the head, where all members are called to share their love, time, possessions and spiritual gifts."



The above statement is part of our Confession of Faith at Taftsville Chapel. As our annual commitment Sunday approaches (Jan. 7th), I thought it might be good to unpack this particular point of faith a bit.

First, the word "Church" is capitalized because it means the worldwide Body of Christ Jesus, not just the Mennonite Church or Taftsville Chapel. Membership in Christ's Body happens for anyone the moment they receive Jesus as Savior, understanding and accepting that He died for them to pay the penalty (death) for their sin. That is the only condition for membership in the Church, and one's faith in Christ's work puts us immediately in a Family with other brothers and sisters who have believed in Him as well. The structure of the Family is one of perfect equality under our only Head, Jesus Christ. The only "organization" is loving relationships.

Second, regardless of our individual understanding of membership with Taftsville Chapel, those who by faith are already members of the larger Family are also already called to share who they are with others everywhere. The word "share" is a good one. Often the idea of commitment can carry (wrongly) the notion that we should deplete ourselves for others. Throughout the history of the Church, the more we get organized around anything other than relationships (with God and each other), the more a sense of expectation or pressure accompanies the idea of commitment. Duty deadens relationships. Sharing, on the other hand, is a ways out of an abundance or overflow of what Christ (the Head of the Family) has provided to each one of us for the sake of others

So what does sharing our "love, time, possessions and spiritual gifts" look like in real life? That's where a connection with a local expression of the larger Family comes in. Each year we have the opportunity to say again (or for the first time!): "This is the group (Taftsville Chapel) that I am willing to be with as myself, in all my ups and downs, sharing as I can. Will you let me be your servant? I will let you be mine, too." Committing to Taftsville Chapel on January 7th means living out what is already your part in the larger Family (Church) in the context of a particular local clan. Getting to know each other and continuing to know each other gives us a context to actually share our gifts as they are needed. This is what makes community real.

I pray that the upcoming year will be one of freedom, blessing and inner growth in our relationships with God and with each other for all of us at Taftsville Chapel.

It's a joy to know and walk with you all. Happy New Year, *Randy Good, Pastor*

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In the fall Sunday school quarter, as the junior youth Sunday school class studied about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, we talked a lot about what their lives would have been like. One Sunday we looked at a poster of foods that Abraham and Sarah would have eaten (and which are still eaten today by Bedouins in the Middle East) and I promised the class a feast of those very foods. Our "feast" took place on December 3 when we met at my house, prepared and ate an Old Testament lunch, and tested everyone's Bible knowledge by baking a scripture cake.



Gabrielle & Dimitri add their ingredients to cake while Noah and Hayden assist ■ Ben measures, Noah mixes scripture cake ■ Ben, Noah & Hayden sample pita bread and pottage

The cake baking began with everyone looking up references in the King James Version of the Bible to discover the ingredients. Then Dimitri and Gabrielle chopped and measured Nahum 3:12 and I Samuel 30:12 while Ben, Hayden, and Noah measured and mixed the other ingredients. While the cake baked, we gathered around the table for our main course.

The menu revolved around various scriptures, which you may wish to look up (use the New International Version), beginning with two general passages (2 Samuel 17:27-29, Deuteronomy 32:12-14). We ate Jacob's red lentil pottage (Genesis 25:29-34); pita bread and goat cheese (Genesis 8:6-8, I Samuel 17:17-19, Proverbs 27:27), comb honey (Psalm 19:9b-10, Proverbs 24:13), yogurt, cucumbers, and mint (Isaiah 7:22, Numbers 11:4-6, Matthew 23:23), dates, olives, figs, and pomegranates (I Chronicles 16:1-3, Deuteronomy 8:6-10), almonds and pistachios (Genesis 43:11), and grape juice (Isaiah 62:8-9). We discovered that pottage made with red lentils turns out yellow, not red! Of all the foods we ate, Gabrielle and Dimitri both said they liked the pottage best; Ben liked the goat cheese and pita bread; Hayden the comb honey and pita bread; and Noah the grape juice and pita bread. We ended the main meal with a nut-cracking contest. Then everyone ran off their energy around our pond until the cake was ready to be eaten. We cheated a bit and topped ours with ice cream, a treat certainly unknown to the patriarchs.

I found a number of ideas for this meal in a little booklet called *Foods from the Bible with Recipes You Can Use Today*. It's now out of print, but Abner was able to find a used copy, which we have donated to our church library. I encourage families to sign it out and have fun together choosing recipes to create your own Bible meal. The scripture cake recipe below is half of a large recipe, which I found in a number of cookbooks. It's a moist, tasty cake.

SCRIPTURE CAKE

Use the King James Version of the Bible to discover the ingredients.

- 3/4 cup Judges 5:25 (2nd ingredient named)
- 1 1/2 cups Jeremiah 6:20
- 3 Jeremiah 17:11
- 1 3/4 cups 1 Kings 4:22
- 1 tsp. Amos 4:5
- a pinch of Matthew 5:13
- 1/2 tsp. each of several 2 Chronicles 9:9
- 1/2 cup Genesis 24:17
- 1/2 Tbs. 1 Samuel 14:25
- 1 cup dried Nahum 3:12
- 1 cup 1 Samuel 30:12
- 1 cup slivered or chopped Numbers 17:8

Follow Solomon's advice, Proverbs 23:14a. Bake in a well-greased loaf pan* at 350° for about 60 minutes. Cool in pan for 30 minutes before turning out on a rack.

**Our cake did not bake well in the middle; I think using a bundt pan would solve this problem.*

Mennonite Mutual Aid (MMA) has a volunteer MMA Advocate in each of the congregations. In October I officially assumed that role for Taftsville. As the MMA advocate I am to be a contact to help provide assistance through Sharing Fund grants, scholarships, educational resources and events or connect people to the MMA partner who can best help.

Whatever your life stage or your circumstances, MMA offers the resources to help you cultivate and care for all your God-given gifts - including health, time, talent, relationships, and money. MMA calls this holistic stewardship. It's the Christ-centered practice of balancing our gifts and the relationships between them that leads to wholeness.

MMA products and services may include:

- Life and health insurance products that help you safeguard your future and your family's. (However MMA cannot actively market insurance products in VT)
- Financial services and products such as:
 - Estate and trust planning
 - Retirement planning
 - Annuities
 - Charitable giving strategies
 - Mutual funds and investment management

- Sharing Fund matching grants to help meet needs in our congregation and community
- Educational events and resources that focus on practical stewardship topics and issues

MMA is incorporated as a fraternal benefit association and as such can help members with funds that would have been claimed by taxes if not for the tax-exempt status. From educational resources to Sharing Fund grants to college scholarships, these benefits are made possible by member participation and the corporate tithe.

For more information on MMA contact me or go to:

<http://www.mmaonline.org/index.html>

A new book was recently added to our library from the MMA Stewardship Resource Catalog:

Just in Time: Stories of God's Extravagance,
By Lynn A. Miller

In this book, Lynn Miller collects true stories about what happens when we open our hearts, wallets, schedules, businesses, and homes to others. These stories reveal the joy of giving back what an extravagant God first gave. Easy reading 34 short stories.

Some of you may remember our stewardship weekend here at Taftsville in the early 90's with Lynn A. Miller as we learned how to model Firstfruits living. I remember that weekend as a highlight in shaping my thinking on stewardship.



Changing Seasons

Photo taken by Bob Collins out Taftsville Chapel Window, November 2006

Thank You Letter

Dear Taftsville family,

Last Sunday, December 24th, I was surprised and delighted with the thoughtfulness and generosity you shared with me. Your gifts of food for my pantry and fridge were (and are, and will be) a huge blessing!

I know that I am loved and cared for, and last Sunday I was able to feel that in a tangible way. Thank you all for your generosity, all your offers of help in moving, and many, many other small ways you have shown care and concern.

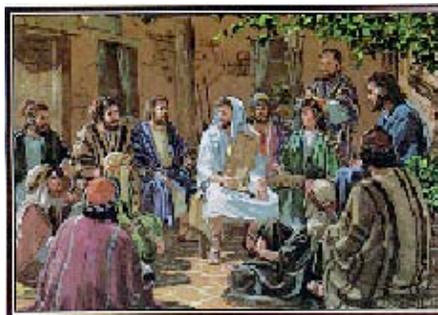
I'm slowly getting settled into my new home, sorting through a whole lifetime of accumulated things that used to be packed into a single room. Expanding to a whole house seems simultaneously daunting and exhilarating.

I really love being a part of Taftsville, especially now as I'm in the midst of this move. Thank you all, once again, and may God bless you as much as He has blessed me.

In Him,

Tim Good

We hope you will join us
for the 2007
Cabin Fever Series



A 12-week Bible study on
KNOWING JESUS

Friday evenings at Taftsville Chapel
beginning Friday, January 12 from 7-9pm

This is a casual, low-key time to get together and to ask honest questions about life, faith and God through a thoughtfully guided Bible Study. Each week we will take a fresh look at a familiar story from the Gospels, to grow and deepen our individual relationship with Jesus.

We will discover such things as:

- "The Surprising Jesus"
- "Jesus the Master of Fear"
- "Jesus and His Cross"
- "Jesus the Servant Leader"
- "Jesus the Puzzling King"

Bring your own questions and we'll search together.
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Advent Stump

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
From his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him –
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and power,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.*
Isaiah 11:1-3a

Schedule for January

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

- January** 6 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast / *Sugar House, Bethel*
 7 9:30 am – Commitment Service & Communion – *Potluck meal after 2nd hour*
 12, 19, 26 7:00 pm – Friday night Cabin Fever Study “Knowing Jesus”
 12 6:00 pm – Young Adult Potluck / *TBD*
 13 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast / *Farmer’s Diner – (followed with quilt tying for MCC at Church)*
 30 Deadline for February issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*
 31 Pastoral Care Team Meeting / *Randy & Carie Good’s Home*

January Birthdays

3 rd Seth Shaw	19 th Josh Abetti
3 rd Ruth Ann Glick	21 st Denver Beck
7 th Amena MacShea-Reess	21 st Omar Zook
10 th Carmeleta Beidler	22 nd Josiah Esch
12 th Kirsten Aloisio	23 rd Carl Andreas
15 th Hannah Cox	24 th Erin Beidler

January Coffee Schedule

7th Karen Cox
 14th Nancy Pejouhy
 21st Marie Hackman
 28th Ken Glick

January Cleaning Schedule

7th Beidler
 14th Collins
 21st Collins
 28th Cox

January Anniversaries

5th Deb & LeeDavid duPlessis
 22nd Nancy & Russell Pejouhy
 23rd Roy & Janet Aloisio

Taftsville Tally		
	Attendance	Offering
Dec. 3 rd	58	2,526.20
10 th	59	?
17 th	57	1,670.00
24 th	66	2,235.00
31 st	<i>Tally will be in February issue</i>	
<small>Please note that these totals do not always reflect the final tally.</small>		

Family of the Month

Each month we will feature a family/individual along with some of their favorite Bible verses/passages. Richard Glick is the photographer and is collecting these photos to compile into a pictorial directory – coming in the future.



Favorite Verses

Richard:

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. *Psalms 145:8 & 9*

Ruth Ann:

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. *Philippians 1:6*

Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

35 Years Ago This Month

January 23, 1972

A quiz program on the Book of Luke will be held Sunday evening.

January 3, 1972

John Lutz and Murray Beidler will check prices on tape cassette players. Taped music could be played before services or for special services or sermons and S.S. lessons could be taped and given to absent members.

30 Years Ago This Month

January 4, 1977

Several weeks ago, a letter was written to the Franconia Conference regarding steps to securing the title to the church building. In order to secure the title, three trustees had to be named. Council appointed Brian, Allen and Harold as these trustees.

January 4, 1977

Twenty-seven pairs of socks and 32 pairs of mittens were taken down from the Christmas tree and will be sent to MCC.

25 Years Ago This Month

January 28, 1982

Candlelighters met at church to cut patches for two comforters; one wool and one corduroy. After cutting patches, Donna Hosang from Hartland demonstrated the rebound exerciser.

20 Years Ago This Month

January 19, 1987

Someone noted that the phonebook yellow pages list Taftsville Chapel under "nondenominational". Council asked Nelson to write a letter to the phone company.

15 Years Ago This Month

January 6, 1992

Joanna led a discussion regarding the Lord's Prayer and terminology we should use. We decided to say "sins" instead of "trespasses".

10 Years Ago This Month

January 23, 1997

The handbook that was compiled for the Taftsville congregation is ten years old and in need of revision. It was suggested that this could be a project for the coming year.

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