



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

March 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

A Parable

During the last few weeks, the thistle feeder outside our kitchen window has been covered with goldfinches. We also have two sunflower seed feeders, and a hanging tray feeder that we can reach from the window, so there is always plenty for everybody, even after the gray squirrel comes through. The juncos, titmice, nuthatches and chickadees are all over the place. The blue jays are noisy and sloppy, and the mourning doves waddle around on the ground underneath this circus and make sure nothing goes to waste. Even the cardinal pair has stayed around this winter, oddly disinterested in the cracked corn, which is good because we're tired of feeding it to the squirrels.

So, one day last week I was looking at "the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. And are you not more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" (Matt.6: 26-27).

What I wanted for the birds was this: To enjoy the food that is always provided, and to fully enjoy being birds. What I saw, though, in some ways reminded me of us.

The goldfinches are especially nervous. For every tiny thistle seed they take, their little heads are jerking back and forth on the lookout for trouble. The more goldfinches there are the more nervous they are, the whole gathering of them on the edge of panic. I think the blue jays sit in the spruce tree until the finches are about to have a corporate heart attack, then they send one over to perch nearby just to watch the goldfinches freak out and all fly off. I can just hear the

jay saying, "Hey guys, watch this!" The jays are either easily bored or easily entertained; it's hard to tell which. In either case, they don't intend any harm. The jays are obnoxious maybe, but not dangerous. I wish the goldfinches didn't have to be so edgy and jumpy, and could simply enjoy their abundant seeds and the safety of the protected yard.

The mourning doves, unlike the finches, seem oblivious to most everything. They scratch around under the feeders and bump into the lilacs and each other, in a world of their own. Lately though, one of them has taken to trying to chase everyone else away. This dove charges at even the heavier blue jays that land on the ground. Actually, it's less of a charge and more a goofy, stomping lumber. Nobody takes him seriously. For all his bluster and

A Parable-----	1
Du Plessis Letter -----	2
Bits 'n Pieces -----	3
New Library Books/CD's-----	3
Nancy in Peru -----	3
Cabin Fever Series-----	3
Newsletter Editor-----	3
Irish Inspirations-----	4
St Patrick's Breastplate-----	4
Celtic Rune of Hospitality-----	4
March Schedule -----	5
Birthdays -----	5
Childcare -----	5
Coffee & Cleaning Schedule-----	5
Song Leaders -----	5
Tally for February -----	5
Person of the Month -----	5
J. Alderfer-----	5
Tidbit Trivia-----	6

vigilance, the other birds just hop a few inches away and keep eating. He is so busy “protecting” his territory that he rarely actually eats anything. It’s pretty sad.

If only I could become a bird for just a while and help them understand how safe and well cared for they actually are. I’d gladly leave the comfort of my warm kitchen and scratch around and feed with them all, explaining the dependability of their provision just so they could relax and enjoy being birds. I wonder if they would believe me.

Even so, we’ll keep feeding them. It’s such a joy to see all the life and color and antics. As spring comes, their unique songs will unselfconsciously fill the air and that will just deepen our blessing.

Shalom, *Randy*
Isaiah 55

Letter from Deb & Lee du Plessis

Dear Taftsville Family,

As some of you may have heard, Lee and I (and Mia and Buddy) have moved to Vermont. The decision has been a long time in the making, with much prayer behind it. The difficult part was leaving all that we had done in South Africa, and most importantly, Lee’s family. They were a great support to us as a couple and very supportive of our ministry there.

We have felt the Lord’s leading to make a change since the middle of last year very strongly. At this time, we are not 100% sure of all the details, but we feel this is where we need to be at this time. This is a place where we can recover from some of the disappointment and heartache that comes with being in ministry for 5 years. I guess the analogy I would use is this: our batteries are almost dead and need to be recharged so that we can fully function again. We are taking some time now to seek God’s will for the next phase of our lives.

We covet your prayers at this time of transition. We look forward to catching up with you our Taftsville family, and worshipping with you again soon.

Thank you for supporting us over the years both in prayer and financially. Your prayers especially were vital to some of the breakthroughs we had with the soccer girls. You can continue to pray for them, that God will continue to keep His hand of protection over them.

By God’s grace, *Deb & Lee du Plessis*
lidduplessis@aol. Com

 **New Library Books & CD's**

Books

Stories: How Mennonite Come To Be

by John D. Roth

Sing the Journey

Hymnal: A Worship Book Supplement

CD's

Sing the Journey

Sing the Journey 2

Kenneth Nafzinger and the Journey Musicians

Sing Little Children Sing

Becky Degan

Nancy Pejouhy in the Amazon

Nancy is on a service trip to the Amazon rain forest in Peru with the Woodstock Union HS school trip to help build a school, drill 2 wells, a health clinic, and distribute school kits. The group left on February 17 and will return on March 4. I'm sure she will have many stories to tell and pictures to share upon her return. There are also members of Bethany Mennonite church (adults and students) on this trip.

Russell Pejouhy

Cabin Fever Series — "Meeting Jesus"

Meeting Friday evenings, a group of 15 disciples are challenged to draw nearer to Jesus by looking into His Word, sharing our thoughts and understandings of His teachings, and striving to learn more about His plan for our lives.

Some of the subjects we've been discussing so far are:

- The Surprising Jesus
- Jesus The Master Over Fear
- Jesus The Source of Power

The study lasts through March, and I think when it's over, we'll all miss meeting together. The fellowship and sharing are great, the snacks yummy, and the study soul-searching. Come join us in the next Cabin Fever Series!

Mary Fullerton

Editor for The Taftsville Chapel Current

Three years ago in January of 2004 I presented the idea of having a monthly newsletter to the church council, which they unanimously supported. I felt there was a need for a communication source that each of you could access and contribute to. Our church community is scattered geographically, and we are all busy with our families and careers. The purpose of these monthly newsletters was to better connect us to each other. And I think it has done just that. I am very thankful to all of you for your contributions, encouragement and compliments.

This March newsletter is the 38th issue of The Taftsville Chapel Current. I have thoroughly enjoyed this experience of being the editor. I would like to see this continue, however, with more demands on my time with my job and personal life, it seems an appropriate time to pass the baton to someone else.

I will continue to edit the newsletter for another few months or until someone feels the desire or nudge to take it on. I will help in the transition. The format is wide open to change, or it can continue as it is. If you are interested, please contact me.

Jan Collins

802-295-5123

janice.g.collins@valley.net

OR talk with me at church

Inspiration from Early Irish Christians

If you're asked to name an Irish hymn, you will probably immediately think of "Be Thou My Vision." Most of us are less familiar with another ancient Irish hymn, which is found in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, number 441. The tune, a traditional Irish melody, is called St. Patrick. Although the origin of the words is lost in time, the hymn is usually titled either "Hymn of St. Patrick" or "St. Patrick's Breastplate." The hymn was translated into English by Cecil Frances Alexander in 1889 and later by Kuno Meyer in 1928. The two versions have some similarities yet they're quite different as each translator worked at "poetizing" the words. Our hymnal version includes excerpts from C.F. Alexander's translation.

A book of meditations on this hymn by David Adam - called *The Cry of the Deer* - has helped me look at the old words in fresh ways. When Abner and I lived in England, we were introduced to the work of Adam, an Anglican vicar who collects and also writes Celtic religious poetry. We have six of his books, including one of meditations on "Be Thou My Vision." Acquaintance with the rich heritage of art, music, poetry, and prayers from early Celtic Christians has blessed and strengthened our faith. In our dining room is a poster decorated with Celtic knot designs with this motto in both English and Gaelic: "It is in the shelter of each other that the people live." A lovely Irish house blessing (below) hangs in our guest room.

St. Patrick's Day always gives me a chance to celebrate the bit of Irish blood in my ancestry. I invite you all – Irish or not – to use the words of two ancient unknown Irish writers to celebrate the timelessness and global reach of our Christian faith. – *Virginia Schlabach*

St. Patrick's Breastplate

I bind unto myself today
The strong name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One in Three...
I bind this day to me forever,
By power of faith, Christ's Incarnation;
His baptism in the Jordan River;
His death on cross for my salvation.

I bind unto myself today
The virtues of the starlit heaven,
The glorious sun's life-giving ray,
The whiteness of the moon at even,
The flashing of the lightning free,
The whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
The stable earth, the deep salt sea,
Around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself today
The power of God to hold and lead,
His eye to watch, His might to stay,
His ear to hearken to my need.
The wisdom of my God to teach,
His hand to guide, his shield to ward;
The word of God to give me speech,
His heavenly host to be my guard.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,

Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the name,
The strong name of the Trinity;
By invocation of the same.
The Three in One, and One in Three,
Of whom all nature hath creation;
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

Excerpts – translation by C.F. Alexander

A Celtic Rune of Hospitality

We saw a stranger yesterday.
We put food in the eating place,
Drink in the drinking place,
Music in the listening place.
And with the sacred name of the
 Triune God
He blessed us and our house,
Our cattle and our dear ones.
As the lark says in her song:
Often, often, often goes the
 Christ
In the stranger's guise.

Schedule for March

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

- March** 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 7:00 pm – Friday night Cabin Fever Study “Knowing Jesus”
 3 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast / *Sugar House in Bethel*
 4 Leadership Team Meeting
 9 6:00 pm – Young Adult Potluck / TBA
 10 8:00 am – Women’s Breakfast / *The Creamry in Woodstock*
 21 Pastoral Care Team Meeting / *Good’s Home*
 27 Deadline for April issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*
 28 7:00 pm – Church Council Meeting / *Church*
 29 Deadline for April’s Calendar / *Contact Marie Hackman*

March Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 nd Miriam Beck | 17 th Mark Belknap |
| 4 th Mary Guntz | 21 st Sarah Glick |
| 6 th Lewis Fogg | 22 nd Darlene Snader |
| 12 th Addison Wanner | 26 th Haylie Cox |
| 13 th Ruth Ellen Dandurand | 26 th Dora Esposito |
| 14 th Nicholas Wolfe | 27 th Evelyn McCrory |
| 15 th Jessica Reitz | 28 th Fred Schlabach |

Taftsville Tally		
	Attendance	Offering
Feb.- 4 th	63	\$1,688.00
11 th	51	1,355.00
18 th	47	1,425.00
25 th	56	1,228.00
Birthday/Library Offering		78.00
<i>Please note that these totals do not always reflect the final tally.</i>		

March Coffee Schedule	March Cleaning Schedule	March Song Leaders Schedule	March Childcare Schedule
4 th Karen Cox	4 th Ken Glick	4 th Rebekah Deitrich	4 th Laura Beidler
11 th Nancy Pejouhy	11 th Ken Glick	11 th Virginia Schlabach	11 th Emily Glick
18 th Marie Hackman	18 th Youth	18 th Allison Fletcher	18 th Carie Good
25 th Ken Glick	25 th Hackman	25 th Carmeleta Beidler	25 th Nancy Pejouhy

Person 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.



Joan Alderfer

Favorite Verse:

And So I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on that day of Christ Jesus. Phil. 1:6

Do you remember when...

35 Years Ago This Month

March 6, 1972

A suggestion was given to reserve the rear seats for the families who have small children. Hopefully this will ease the noise during services.

March 12, 1972

“No need to Hide”, a film of Nicky Cruz’s life will be shown at Bethany Mennonite Church at 7:30.

30 Years Ago This Month

March 13, 1977

The first practice for the Easter play will begin at 6:30.

March 19, 1977

This is the weekend of the Boston Flower Show. How many ladies would be interested in going together by bus? The cost of admission is \$2.50 and the bus fare would be \$10-12.00.

20 Years Ago This Month

March 8, 1987

At the quarterly congregational meeting, the role of children in communion services is discussed.

15 Years Ago This Month

March 9, 1992

Ruth Ann Glick’s brother working in Africa says there is a great need for books there. We hope that everyone can bring books from home, and perhaps go through the church library to meet this need.

10 Years Ago This Month

March 1, 1997

Randy will be distributing letters in mailboxes further explaining his idea of Ekklesia Sundays.

**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
