



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 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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*Photos throughout this issue were taken by Allen Guntz during Sunday School with the children, and during the Worship Service led by the youth.

Those familiar with the eBay community know about the Feedback rating system that is used. Buyers and sellers within eBay receive feedback ratings and comments from others that have actually done business with them. Only those with direct and recent dealings can leave feedback for each other. These comments can then be read by anyone else considering a business transaction with either party, either as a buyer or a seller. Just recently, I was looking for an item for my shop and ran across a seller of that item with 100% positive feedback and over 26,000 transactions. Pretty impressive, and confidence building for me as a potential buyer. The other sellers of similar items had many positive comments, but numerous negatives as well. Guess which seller I placed a bid with?

In this world, confidence in others is so easily broken, tested or mistaken. But if you were to hear again and again from people who actually know someone well that the person in question was especially trustworthy, it could build your confidence that that same trustworthiness would extend to you as well. So it is with Jesus. Everyone who knows Him (*as* Him - not as a composite of our opinions and experiences with some of His followers); everyone who has had actual direct dealings with Him has found Him to be fully trustworthy - and good. 100% positive feedback.

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with *confidence*, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (*Hebrews 4:14-16*).

During the season leading up to Easter, this passage will be underlying our worship at Taftsville. Consider spending some time meditating on it, as well as the two verses preceding it (*Hebrews 4:12-13*). Let it do its good work. He is so worthy of our confidence.

Blessings, *Randy*



"Super Sunday" at Taftsville

Sunday, February 5, 2006 – Super Bowl Sunday! The Super Bowl hype and the day of the game is here. I went to church. No one mentioned the Super Bowl this year. Yes, the Patriots were not in it. Did that matter? Sure, I like the Patriots. But, the Super Bowl is about a game. It's about athletic abilities, winning, and yes, the media and corporate concerns, advertising, money, a pastime, etc. Will you remember who won five years from now? Maybe. Who will care then.

But what was really "Super" this Sunday was that the youth participated in our church service – led our worship. It was "Super" to have them being part of the church; feeling free to express their honest opinions about why they go to church; engaging the adults to spontaneously express their reason to be there; discussing what is important to them – worshiping, learning, and building a foundation for their future. It is about believing, having faith in God, and cultivating the groundwork for tomorrow. Our future will be based on what the youth of today have formed for a foundation for tomorrow. Give them credit, it was a "SUPER SUNDAY". THANK YOU, LAURA, EMILY, MACKENZIE AND HUNTER! –Bob Collins



Mackenzie Clifford, Laura Beidler, Hunter Cox, Emily Glick Leading Worship

The youth of our congregation led our worship service on February 5th. They presented a wonderful skit entitled "Installing Love" (see next page), shared songs they sang in worship at the Mennonite Youth Conference in Charlotte, NC last summer, and engaged all ages present to actively participate in worship through sharing and praying with clay.



Installing Love *The skit performed by the youth on February 5*

Tech Support: Yes, ... how can I help you?

Customer: Well, after much consideration I have decided to install Love. Can you guide me through the process?

Tech Support: Yes. I can help you. Are you ready to proceed?

Customer: Well, I'm not very technical, but I think I'm ready. What do I do first?

Tech Support: The first step is to open your heart. Have you located your heart?

Customer: Yes, but there are several other programs running now. Is it okay to install Love while they are running?

Tech Support: What other programs are running?

Customer: Let's see, I have Past Hurt, Lo Self-Esteem, Grudge and Resentment running right now.

Tech Support: No problem, Love will gradually erase past Hurt from your current operating system. It may remain in your permanent memory but it will no longer disrupt other programs. Love will eventually override Low Self-Esteem with a module of its own called High Self-Esteem. However, you have to turn off Grudge and Resentment. Those programs prevent Love from being properly installed. Can you turn those off?

Customer: I don't know how to turn them off. Can you tell me how?

Tech Support: With pleasure. Go to your start menu and invoke Forgiveness. Do this as many times as necessary until Grudge and Resentment have been completely erased.

Customer: Okay, done! Love has started installing itself. Is that normal?

Tech Support: Yes, but remember that you only have the base program. You need to begin connecting to other Hearts in order to get the upgrades.

Customers: Oops! I have an error message already. It says, "Error - Program not run on external components." What should I do?

Tech Support: Don't worry. It means that the Love program is set up to run on Internal Hearts, but has not yet been run on your Heart. In non-technical terms, it simply means you have to Love yourself before you can Love others.

Customer: So, what should I do?

Tech Support: Pull down Self-Acceptance; then click on the following files: Forgive-Self; Realize Your Worth; and Acknowledge your Limitations.

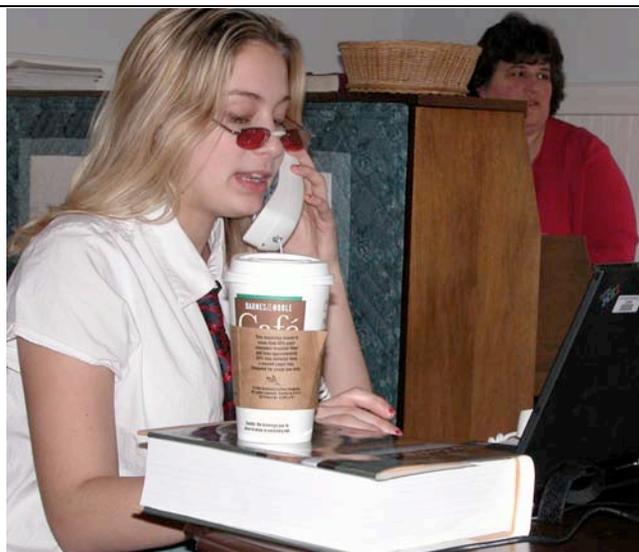
Customer: Okay, done.

Tech Support: Now copy them to the "My Heart" directory. The system will overwrite any conflicting files and begin patching faulty programming. Also, you need to delete Verbose Self-Criticism from all directories and empty your Recycle Bin to make sure it is completely gone and never comes back.

Customer: Got it. Hey! My Heart is filling up with new files. Smile is playing on the monitor and Peace and Contentment are copying themselves all over my Heart. Is this normal?

Tech Support: Sometimes. For others it takes awhile, but eventually everything gets it at the proper time. So Love is installed and running. One more thing before we hang up. Love is Freeware. Be sure to give it and its various modules to everyone you meet. They will in turn share it with others and return some cool modules back to you.

Customer: Thank you.



← Tech Support: Mackenzie ~~~~~ ↓ Customer: Emily



How We Have Seen God At Work

The Asking Thing

Melissa Ayres and I each moved into new apartments and we compare experiences daily; specifically, what is so challenging about change? Which boxes do we unpack with pleasure, and what musty old relics can we discard?

For me, this second category of “baggage” includes confusion about THE ASKING THING. God says “Come boldly unto the throne of grace” (Hebrew 4:16), which is the opposite of the mute mincing over ground glass if absolutely unavoidable asking experiences that I have firmly packed in my past.

Two experiences illustrate my confusion. On the job, various MIAs (men in authority) seemed arbitrary in the help they granted. They commended employees for problem solving skills and self-sufficiency. (Request denied: figure it out for yourself.) Or they ranted that their employees were too independent, even subordinate. (Request denied: you should learn your place.) Since my place in job situations like this was shifting sand, I learned to avoid asking altogether.

In the family, it was easier to follow the “if-then” rationale. If Christians are content with things as they are, then they will not want more, or different, or new – or anything. If I ask, (for the apartment to be repaired, say) then I’ve failed at “contentment”. I want at least a B- in contentment, so perhaps self-sufficiency, figure-it-out-for-yourself is the way to go. But wait. Where, exactly can I find this in the Bible?

So we continue to unpack our dusty boxes and sort our “stuff”. As for me and my house, I plan to **KEEP** the memories of moving on February 3 & 4, when the body of believers at Taftsville helped us in every practical way – because we asked. I like the clarity of this experience. I like the bold approach that the dying man took, as he hung on the cross next to Jesus; let there be no mincing or hesitation when Easter is just about to occur! Jesus saved him because he asked.

-Lynda Knisley

A Huge Job and a Precious Gift

Moving is a huge job and I approached mine trying to be efficient and mindful of God’s leading. You can imagine that there were many areas where lessons or practice were provided. Among these He tucked a precious gift.

In my relationships with some very key people, being truly heard has been difficult. The result has been frustration and the belief that I won’t be heard. During the move I relied on help to move the big stuff. It was amazing to see my request for particular care repeated to others and followed thru. Later my body language was observed, interpreted and acted on as I rushed around with myriad loose ends. The immediate result was few worries and immensely reduced stress. It was also an incredibly empowering and heart-warming experience, a truly awesome gift.

These few weeks later, God has shown me there was a lesson linked with that gift. I have touched the hardness in the hearts of those unable to listen to me. What wasn’t evident until now was that this hardness had crept into my heart as well. It has been easy in my fight to be heard, to ignore the words of others. The challenge now is to allow the softening this gift created to remain and spread. Those years of conditioning are powerful, but I am confident that with God’s help I can remain open.

-Melissa Ayres



The Youth Having a Grand Time

Bits and Pieces

Candlelighters and Ladies Breakfast

Breakfast will be on Saturday March 11 at 8:30 at the Mountain Creamery Restaurant in Woodstock followed by Candlelighters at church. We will be cutting squares for MCC quilts and maybe start to piece them.

When "Sparky" Arrives...

Mike and Judy McCrory, and Calvin and Mabel will be welcoming their new baby in March. As a church family we would like to help them with meals for several weeks. We will make an announcement when we are ready to schedule meals.

If you are 60 or Older...

...you are invited to a "60 & Over" Potluck at Allen & Mary Guntz' home on Sunday, March 5 at 5:30 pm.

Kevin & Seth Attend NPB

Kevin Cox and Seth Shaw attended the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC this February when Bono spoke. Here are just a few of his remarks. To read the full script, contact Kevin Cox.

Remarks at the NPB by Bono

"God has a special place for the poor. In fact, the poor are where God lives. The one thing we can all agree on, all faiths and ideologies, is that God is with the vulnerable and poor. God is in the slums, in the cardboard boxes where the poor play house... God is in the silence of a mother who has infected her child with a virus that will end both their lives... God is in the cries heard under the rubble of war... God is in the debris of wasted opportunity and lives, and God is with us if we are with them. It's not a coincidence that in the Scriptures, poverty is mentioned more than 2,100 times. It's not an accident. The only time Christ is judgmental is on the subject of the poor. 'As you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.' (Matthew 25:40) As I say, good news to the poor."

Responses to the "FEBRUARY QUESTION OF THE MONTH"

Which of the following fits with your joy of giving for our weekly offering?

88% Prefer passing the basket as we do now.

11% Would prefer using an inconspicuous box.

Over half of all the comments received suggested a song, special music and/or prayer should be included as a part of collecting the offering.

(Worship Leaders and Song Leaders, take note)

(18% of the congregation responded to the question)

*** SEE BOTTOM OF PAGE 7 FOR "MARCH QUESTION OF THE MONTH"**

A Birth Announcement

From Proud Grandmother – Nancy Iott

Andy and Jenny's baby girl arrived February 23 weighing in a 5 lbs. 10 oz. She has been named Margaret Joy Iott - will be called Maggie. All is well after a long wait.

Movie Night at Taftsville

Ten hardy souls gathered together on a cold evening to watch "The Widow of Ste. Pierre" the thought-provoking film for February's Movie Night at Taftsville Chapel. Set on an island off the coast of Newfoundland in the 1800s, this was the allegedly true story of Neil, a drunken murderer, sentenced to death by guillotine (the widow). The death sentence could not be expeditiously carried out due to the fact that this small French community did not own a guillotine. During the months that followed, Neil gained the respect of the Captain of the Guard and his wife. By the time the ship carrying the instrument of death arrived, the entire community had grown to love and respect the criminal.

Given the chance to escape to safety in the British colony of Newfoundland, Neil chose to stay and accept his punishment. An intriguing line--- "Invariably, the man who is punished is not the same as the man who was accused."--- has continued to run through my mind. What major life changes have the hundreds of convicted men and women currently on "death row" in our country made during the years, in some cases decades, since they committed their crimes? Are they really the same people who committed the heinous crimes? How does mercy fit into the picture?

The next Movie Night will be a presentation of "The Passion" on Maundy Thursday.

-Nancy Pejouhy



Fill out your form today & bring to church!

Notes from Friends

McCrorry Letter of Thanks

Dear Taftsville Congregation,

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your Fellowship ever since we started attending Taftsville. Your open arms and warm smiles and willing hands have helped us establish our family before we were married.

We are now waiting anxiously for our third child, Sparky, to arrive. At the same time, we are finishing-up a massive project to add-on new rooms to our house. In the last year we have learned that the generosity of others, particularly of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ, is limited only by our capacity to accept the gifts offered. We have learned that words cannot convey what fills our hearts when we receive these gifts and stammering, "thank you," is all we can do. It seems that everyone we thank understands the love in those two words.

Judy's pregnancy is reaching its conclusion, much to her relief. Over the last months, you have prayed for Judy's comfort and Sparky's health. As of the last doctor's visit, we expect a normal birth with no complications. Halleluiah!

We praise God every day for His grace and boundless capacity to answer our needs. We are working to prepare a home to handle our steadily growing family (the limits of which continue to be the subject of discussion) and God reminds us daily of His love through the actions of others. So, again, we want to thank you and we thank God for you. Your fellowship, prayers, and generosity are deeply cherished.

We miss being able to attend Sunday Service and Fellowship, which is the only time we are able to visit with many of you. We look forward to things calming down this year and our lives following a more predictable pattern. We also look forward to the opportunity to share with Taftsville and the Body of Christ at large.

Until that time, thank you.

God Bless You All, *Mike & Judy McCrorry*

Joanna Beidler –

Once again it was so nice to go to the mailbox and receive the *Taftsville Chapel Current*. We are staying healthy and warm, just looking forward to spring and planting time again. I have been working on making a braided rug, also find other sewing projects to do. Thanks for the newsletter, it is always good to receive it and feel the connection with the church family at Taftsville. We now have a new email. It is mnjb@direcway.com

Much Love, *Joanna*



Nancy Pejouhy telling the OT story of *Jeremiah at the Potter's House*

Nancy Iott –

I was so glad the February issue of "The Current" mentioned the *Hotel Rwanda* movie. About the time I watched it, I met a girl from Rwanda who is getting a degree here at WCU in Genocide Studies. She is an amazing and remarkable young woman whose upbeat attitude belies the tragedy of losing all her family members to machetes and giving birth to her daughter in a trashcan. I could relate to her so much better because I had been nudged by the newsletter to watch that movie. She did say that the movie was Hollywoodized, because in fact, the hotel in the movie was well protected. Look forward to staying "current".

Love, *Nancy*

Websites you may be interested in:

**Mennonite Education Agency /
Prayers for Faith and Learning**

<http://www.mennoniteeducation.org>

Health and Harmony – Kinari Webb in Indonesia.

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

Schedule for March

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

March 1 Ash Wednesday / Beginning of Lent

1 Pastoral Care Team Meeting

(each Friday) **3, 10, 17, 24, 31** 7:00 pm – Cabin Fever/Faith Series / Church

4 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast / Eaton’s Sugar House

5 9:30 am – Worship Service / Guest Speaker – Brandon Bergey, Director of BBC

5 5:30 pm – “60 & Over” Pot-Luck / Guntz Home

8 7.00 pm – Church Council Meeting / Church

9 6:00 pm – Young Adult Potluck / Bender/Hepler’s

11 8:30 am – Women’s Breakfast / Mountain Creamery

27 Deadline for April issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*

March Birthdays

2nd Mim Beck
 4th Mary Guntz
 6th Lewis Fogg
 13th Ruth Ellen Dandurand
 21st Sarah Glick
 22nd Darlene Snader
 26th Haylie Cox
 26th Dora Esposito
 28th Fred Schlabach

March Cleaning Schedule

5th Beidler
 12th Beidler
 19th Collins
 26th Collins

March Song Leaders

5th Carmeleta Beidler
 12th Rebekah Deitrich
 19th Dave Lutz
 26th Jan Zook

March Childcare Schedule

5th Laura Beidler
 10th Virginia Schlabach
 15th Emily Glick
 26th Carmeleta Beidler

Taftsville Tally		
	Attendance	Offering
Feb. 5 th	46	\$1,734.00
12 th	46	1,306.00
19 th	33	1,415.25
26 th	36	

“MARCH QUESTION OF THE MONTH”

(Please mark your responses, say more if you'd like, tear off this section, and deposit in the White Box)

Concerning new songs, I would prefer to learn them:

___ During our Sunday morning worship time

___ occasionally

___ regularly

___ As a part of Song Services

___ occasionally

___ regularly

___ I prefer to sing only familiar songs.

Comments: _____

Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

35 Years Ago This Month

March 9, 1971

The profile of the Taftsville Congregation, which Richard Glick and Murray Beidler composed, was read for evaluation. Richard was appointed chairman for locating a minister.

March 28, 1971

A note from Mr. & Mrs. Allen Guntz reads, "We wish to thank each one who helped us on our new house, and with babysitting and moving. We extend an invitation for you to come visit us in our new home."

30 Years Ago This Month

March 2, 1976

It was brought to our attention that the library space is full and a few more shelves could make the library a little neater.

25 Years Ago This Month

March 15, 1981

Treasurer Mary Guntz advised that by placing the educational fund monies in a 2 1/2 year certificate we could almost double our interest rate. It was decided that this would be a good move to make.

20 Years Ago This Month

March 25, 1986

We discussed the matter of building a bathroom in the Millen Room. It is recommended that the trustees go ahead with this.

10 Years Ago This Month

March 9, 1996

The Vermont churches will host an afternoon and evening with Paul and Ann Gingerich, Peace Evangelists, at the Mid-Vermont School gym.

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

Taftsville Chapel
P O Box 44
Taftsville, Vermont 05073