



# 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

November 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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## Heaven

When I was eight years old my grandfather passed away and at his funeral, I remember the minister talking about him going to heaven to be with Jesus. It seemed to me to be a very sad time because he was no longer here and I could see that my parents were visibly saddened. The promise of him being in a much better place left a hollow feeling in my young mind because I could not grasp how it could be better for someone who was close to me to die. Heaven seemed rather scary if you had to die to go there. What if my parents died? What would happen to me?

The disciples were less than excited about Jesus leaving them as he had said he would but he also promised to come back again when he had prepared a home for them. John 14: 1-6 is a reassuring promise that explains very briefly the way to our heavenly home and that it will, indeed, be rather elaborate! We have many glimpses of what eternity will be like from scripture but we can only understand it in earthly terms. Those who have had near death experiences describe as best as they can what they saw in their short glimpse of a little bit of heaven. The thing that is so frustrating to them is that they cannot find words to properly describe what they saw or experienced. The common things that they mention are the intensity of the light, how welcome they have felt, and the music that was beyond description!

I find that the subject of heaven grows a bit more interesting as I get older. I am convinced that we have some exciting surprises waiting for us. I am also convinced that our Father in heaven wants us to enjoy life here and now! His desire is for us to worship him and love him more each day by loving those around us.

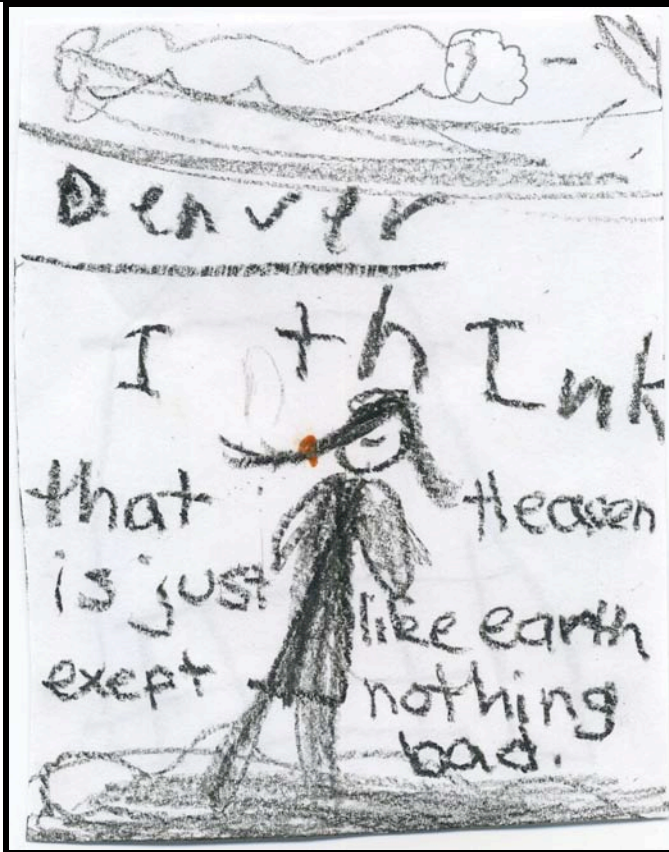
God desires to live with his people and, as John describes the new heaven and new earth in Revelation 21, God is going to do just that. "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people and God himself will be with them and be their God." We will not have one boring moment because God has so much to tell us and so much to show us! I have always wanted to fly through the air like a bird, not in an airplane but like an angel. I hope we can do that in Heaven. I think we will be able to experience so many things and explore the vast expanse of space and have God show us details that will in turn so overwhelm us that worship will be our natural response.

*"Behold I am coming soon! My reward is with me and I will give to everyone according to what he has done."*

Rev. 22:12

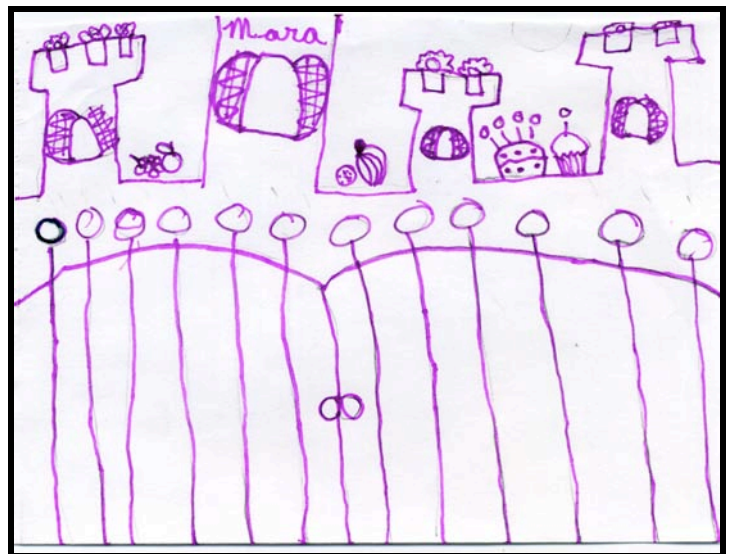
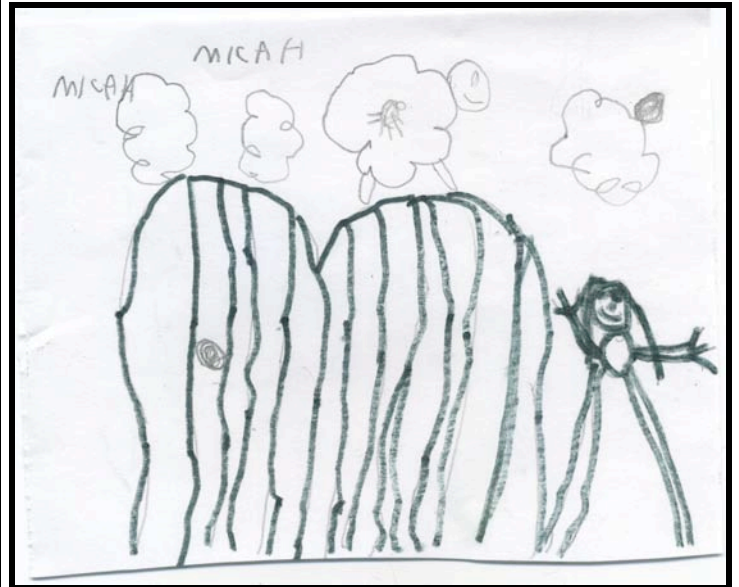
Omar Zook, Leadership Team Member

**Pictures of Heaven**



When I suggested drawing a picture of what heaven might look like, my Sunday School class enthusiastically and joyfully drew the following pictures. Jan Collins

The artists –  
Mara, Mim & Denver Beck, and Micah Schlabach



**Sunday School Teacher Change:** MaryBeth Beck will be teaching K through Grade 4 starting November 5. I will miss the weekly sessions with Micah, Addison, Lena, Hannah, Denver, Mim and Mara. Thank you MaryBeth. Jan Collins

**Dear Taftsville Family,**

As Carie and I return and re-enter the fellowship at Taftsville we are deeply aware of how much we've missed everyone. There really is no group of people like you! Thanks so much for the sabbatical time; we are indeed rested and refreshed and looking forward to coming back. I'm sure some gifts and strengths within the congregation were called on in new ways during the last 4 months and we can't wait to hear how God has been at work. May He continue to be - in all of us. It's good to be home with you.

**Shalom! Randy**

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## **"Tearing down the old, to build anew"**

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*This was the spur of the moment summary I came up with in response to someone's question  
"What was Randy's Sabbatical Journey about?"*

Beginning his sabbatical in June, one goal was clear: to tear out the existing structure – beams, boards, walls, floors and windows – of the 200 year-old barn portion of our house, and replace the insufficient carrying timbers with sound and solid beams; add adequate insulation; hand-plane and finish the boards; install new, tight energy-efficient windows. This is a major project that has been in line for Randy's attention for over a decade; and the sort of thing that, for him, is creative, enjoyable, challenging, rewarding and rejuvenating. It fit the bill for an unhurried block of time where his sabbatical assignment was to immerse himself in something refreshing. Randy also finds that working with his hands is meditative and prayerful work, and the Lord often ministers to his spirit during such a task.

Almost any remodeling project requires some dismantling in the early stages. Things may look like a mess for quite awhile before recognizable progress begins to take shape. This was certainly the case in our room, as we shoved all the furniture into the middle of the room, covered it all with plastic, and Randy began to remove the heavy, cracked ceiling beams and all the old boards. Rat-infested remains of old insulation saw the light of day. Ancient dust was everywhere. The heavy woodstove was moved and a new flue hacked into the brick and mortar; and soon a big saw was set up in the midst of everything. We got used to stepping over boxes of screws and hand tools; and sweeping up scrap, wood shavings and sawdust each evening.

When the Holy Spirit is involved in a person's life, for divine healing and redemption, often an old "lie" or misconception that forms the basis of relationship with self, others and the world must be exposed and dismantled before the truth of scripture can form a fresh framework, to set that person free. Free to rebuild a new view of self and others, based on a Biblical understanding of relationship founded on Jesus' love.

This brings to mind many stories in the Bible, where individuals went through a process of dismantling a comfortable, false, world-view, which had been taken for granted, in order to grasp a truer, deeper understanding. I think of Joseph, who was imprisoned before he was made ruler; of Moses,

who was exiled from Egypt before he returned to lead his people; of Saul, who was blinded before he saw the light; of Peter, who denied Jesus before he was empowered to testify with boldness. Even Jesus said, "Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25).

As Randy's work pace took on a joyful rhythm, other cares and responsibilities fell away and the Lord had unencumbered access to his heart. Day after day his hands were busy, his mind focused, but his heart was engaged in worship and listening to the Lord. The Master Carpenter was also at work, slowly removing some old walls of self-protection and dismantling faulty beliefs of pressured performance that had served a lifetime as an attempt to insulate Randy from the tender scars of his painful childhood.

It was while spending a few days on Lake Michigan in early October, walking alone along the misty shores one early morning, that Jesus nailed a fresh-cut timber into place in Randy's soul, plumb and true. The first plank of a sturdy new framework for ministry and relationship. As concrete as the mortar holding our new hearth in place, Randy saw His Father's heart; accepting, approving, receiving. Randy knew without doubt that he was IN the Beloved, secure and eternal, and there was no longer a place for needing to prove himself special. A life long burden, based on a lie, was lifted.

Our room project isn't completed, as we knew it wouldn't be, before Randy returned to work this week. Neither, of course, is the remodeling of our souls, until we are made fit for eternity. As we attend to the One who formed us, He continues to be at work in us, perfecting us for His purposes. Often this involves tearing down those thoughts that would exalt themselves against the knowledge of Christ, and replacing them with the truth that sets us free; but Jesus does this ever so gently, in the quiet of our souls, as we yield to the skillful hands of the Master.

Randy's sabbatical was deeply refreshing for both of us. Our room is still under construction, but we have passed the turning point. The old is gone. The new is coming. Randy is also walking in a peaceable newness of soul, rejoicing and expecting the reconstruction to continue, until, as Jesus promised in Philippians 1:6, "He will complete that which He has begun."

### **Youth Group Fund Raisers**

The youth group continues its endeavors to raise money for the trip to San Jose for the Youth Convention. On Sunday, November 19, we will be hosting a Mexican themed dinner after church. The menu will include enchiladas and a taco bar. We would appreciate RSVP's by Sunday, November 12.

We are also crafting a very special 2007 Taftsville Chapel Calendar. Please let us know if there is any special date you would like included. A prototype will be available soon and pre-orders will be appreciated.

### **Health in Harmony Informational Evening**

**On November 16 at 7PM you are invited to the Beidler Farm in Randolph Center.** Kinari Webb will be showing slides of the proposed hospital site and will speak about the work Health in Harmony is doing in Indonesia. **If you are interested in attending please RSVP to Brent and Regina at 728-5601 or bbeidler@verizon.net.** If the group size exceeds what can comfortably fit in their living room Brent and Regina will be organizing an alternative local site and will be able to update those who are planning to attend. Hope to see you there. *Regina Beidler*



### **Candelighters**

Several ladies met a Ruth Ann Glick's on Wednesday evening October 18<sup>th</sup>. We planned Candelighters events for the coming winter. Some of the events and dates can be marked on your calendar already.

The past two years we have collected hats and mittens to donate to PATH (Dept. of Prevention, Assistance, Transition & Health Access), a social services agency in White River Jct. The Christmas tree to hang them on will be in place in the Millen Room before Thanksgiving.

Another "before Christmas" project will be to quilt a quilt for the Bethany Birches auction next year. We will be quilting at Mary Guntz's on Monday evenings, November 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Turning the calendar to 2007 we have plans to meet on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> after Ladies Breakfast. We will meet at church to tie quilts for MCC. In February we will also meet after Ladies Breakfast (Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>) to make bags for school kits. We will also be making Care Packages for College students.

There are tentative plans to go to the Boston Flower Show in March, and to do a project for the haven in April.

### **Congratulations to the Esch Family!**

**Owen Daniel Esch was born on Sunday morning, 7:54 am, October 22, 2006 to parents Sheldon and Monica, and big brother Josiah.** Owen Daniel weighed 6 pounds 14 ounces and was 21 inches long. An email from Sheldon states, "Mom and baby are both doing well," and "Josiah is very excited to be a big brother and is taking it all in stride (so far). We're looking forward to introducing him to everyone soon in person!"



## Schedule for November

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

- November**
- 4**    7:00 am - Men's Breakfast / *Sugar House*
  - 4**    4:00 pm - Mennonite Voluntary Service Mtg. (Potluck to follow)  
                   *Bethany Mennonite Church*
  - 5**    9:30 am - Ekklesia
  - 10**   6:00 pm - Young Adult Potluck / *location TBA*
  - 11**   7:30 am - Women's Breakfast / *Farmer's Diner*
  - 13**   7:00 pm - Quilting for Bethany Birches Camp Auction 2007 / *Mary Guntz's*
  - 19**   12 Noon (or shortly after) - Mexican Meal Youth Fundraiser
  - 20**   7:00 pm - Quilting for Bethany Birches Camp Auction 2007 / *Mary Guntz's*
  - 28**   Deadline for December issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*

### November Birthdays

- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Janet Aloisio   | 17 <sup>th</sup> Rosalind Andreas |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Toby Deitrich   | 21 <sup>st</sup> Murray Beidler   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Emily Glick     | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Gian Aloisio     |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Amelia Cormier | 23 <sup>rd</sup> Gabrielle Webber |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Bob Collins    |                                   |

### November Anniversaries

- 21<sup>st</sup> Deborah and Chuck Kidwell

### November Song Leaders

- 5<sup>th</sup> Carmeleta Beidler
- 12<sup>th</sup> Richard Glick
- 19<sup>th</sup> Rebekah Deitrich
- 26<sup>th</sup> Virginia Schlabach

### November Childcare Schedule

- 5<sup>th</sup> Nancy Pejouhy
- 12<sup>th</sup> Janet North
- 19<sup>th</sup> Mary Guntz
- 26<sup>th</sup> Laura Beidler

### November Cleaning Schedule

- 5<sup>th</sup> Beck/Alderfer
- 15<sup>th</sup> Beck/Alderfer
- 19<sup>th</sup> Deitrich
- 26<sup>th</sup> Deitrich

Taftsville Tally	
Attendance	Offering
Oct. 1st -----56 -----	\$1,928.95
8th -----66 -----	1,478.50
15th -----46 -----	1,267.41
22nd -----45 -----	1,570.00
29th	<i>Tally will be in December</i>

## 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.



### Ted & Elinor Shattuck

#### Favorite Verse

*Eli and Ted share the same favorite verse. It was a verse they had read at their wedding:*

**"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant. ...he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!" *Philippians 2:5-7, 8b***

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## Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

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### 35 Years Ago This Month

*November 14, 1971*

From the Congregational Profile sent to John Lapp to assist in the pastor search: "The number of families worshipping at Taftsville numbers approximately 15. The predominant age of the members is between 25-33. Nearly all have young children".

*November 8, 1971*

Harold Fisher represented the young people in requesting renovations to the church basement. \$200 was allocated for the purchasing of games, registers for heat ducts, better lighting, etc.

### 30 Years Ago This Month

*November 2, 1976*

From the church council – A reminder to the members at Taftsville – remember to introduce and welcome visitors!

*November 2, 1976*

Librarian's Report (Ruth Ann Glick) -The new books for children are a pop-up book on The Story of the Nativity, and a book about squirrels called Hurry, Scurry and Flurry.

### 25 Years Ago This Month

*November 5, 1981*

Church council discussed plans for future leadership. We talked about our immediate goals and concluded that the most important immediate need in our fellowship is to strive to improve our relationships with each other and then concentrate on reaching out to neighbors and fellow workers.

### 20 Years Ago This Month

*November 19, 1986*

Wednesday evening Thanksgiving activity will be centered on the country of Benin. Murray and Joanna will coordinate this project, which will include a meal from that country as well as learning about the life and church in Benin.

### 15 Years Ago This Month

*November 18, 1991*

It was agreed to purchase an answering machine for the church so that we will be sure not to miss any calls from those who are inquiring about our church.

### 10 Years Ago This Month

*November 20, 1996*

We had some discussion about the increasing difficulty of ending our coffee time so that we can begin Sunday School on time. Please be aware if this applies to you.

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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*

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### 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