



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; Carie Good, Janet North & Virginia Schlabach, Newsletter Staff

November 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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“Where are the other nine?”

Parents can often be heard reminding their children to say “thank you” to someone for a kindness extended to them. It’s right and good for this reminder to come, because it teaches kids courtesy and politeness, and helps make them aware of others. That the reminders are needed seems to suggest that offering thanks does not come naturally for little ones. It’s a social skill that comes along with encouragement and maturity. Why doesn’t it come naturally? Maybe for no other reason than that kids, in their wonderful innocence, are quite unaware of their significant dependence on the help of others for their needs to be met.

As Thanksgiving approaches, something within many of us seems to want to move beyond appropriate politeness into the deeper waters of genuine gratitude in a special way. How do we find and experience that? Does a deep and honest sense of gratitude elude us at times?

Luke 17:11-19 records an event that might help us think about Thanksgiving, or perhaps, giving thanks. Several things are evident from the story: 1. All ten lepers were healed. 2. Apparently the nine who did not return to Jesus to acknowledge their healing were Israelites (insiders). 3. Jesus noticed their absence with concern. 4. Jesus calls what the Samaritan did “giving praise to God.”

The availability of the kindness of God to everyone is just one of His praiseworthy attributes, and this story illustrates that. But the issue here is more about the response of the recipients of His kindness. Why didn’t the other nine return and give praise and thanks? What might have blocked them from doing this that is sometimes a common reality for us as well?

In order for giving thanks to be driven by gratitude, and not just duty or politeness, a number of potentially discomfoting realities must be faced.

1. We really are quite helpless apart from the provision of God. The lepers all knew there was nothing they could do on their own about their leprosy. They could only ask Jesus for mercy. 2. We can unconsciously live with a sense of entitlement to the kindness of God. The nine Israelites may have indulged in just this – a sense that, as God’s chosen people, He was obliged to care for them in a special way, thus relieving them of a deep sense of dependence. 3. The condition of our heart toward God is of more importance to Jesus than just external conditions. Jesus didn’t stop with relieving the suffering of the lepers. That’s only where He started. He went on to be concerned about their spiritual condition, the realities within their hearts that their lack of gratitude illustrated. 4. Our genuine gratitude is received by God as praise. This is so much more than a polite “thank you.” I suspect that for every ten kindnesses that God shows to me, I am occasionally humbled enough to throw myself at Jesus’ feet in thanksgiving for maybe one of them. What happened to the other nine? Jesus is concerned about this, and wants to help, but that means deep work in my heart along the lines of helplessness, dependence and humility. Philippians 1:6 gives me hope, and allows me to give thanks (however incompletely) at the throne of grace: “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.”

Have a wonderful, meaningful and enjoyable Thanksgiving. *-Randy*

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**
- 3 7:00 am – Men’s Breakfast at *Sugarhouse*
 - 3 10:00 am – Fall Workday at church
 - 4 Harvest Potluck Following 2nd Hour/Sunday School
 - 6 1 to 4:00 pm & 6:30 to 9pm – Quilting at Mary Guntz’s
 - 9 & 10 – Franconia Conference Assembly (PA)
 - 11 7:30 am – Women’s Breakfast
 - 10 & 11 – Visit to New Beginnings Church, Philadelphia, PA
 - 11 Worship Service at Bethany Mennonite Church
 - 18 9:30 am – Thanksgiving Service / Special Offering and Communion
 - 26 Deadline for December issue of *The Taftsville Chapel Current*

| Taftsville Tally | | |
|---|------------------|------------|
| | Attendance | Offering |
| Sept. 30 | 51 | \$1,529.00 |
| Oct. 7 | 62 | 1,615.00 |
| | Youth - \$56.00 | |
| 14 | 68 | 1,731.50 |
| 21 | 59 | 1,172.00 |
| 28 | 34 | 855.00 |
| | Youth - \$855.00 | |
| <i>Please note that these totals do not always reflect the final tally.</i> | | |

November Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 st Peggy Smith | 17 th Rosalind Andreas |
| 2 nd Janet Aloisio | 21 st Murray Beidler |
| 8 th Toby Deitrich | 22 nd Allison Fletcher |
| 9 th Emily Glick | 22 nd Gian Aloisio |
| 15 th Amelia Cormier | 23 rd Gabrielle Webber |
| 16 th Bob Collins | |

November Anniversaries

- 21st Chuck & Deborah Kidwell

November Childcare Schedule

- 4th Nancy Pejouhy
- 11th Janet North
- 18th Mary Guntz
- 25th Laura Beidler

November Coffee Schedule

- 4th R & R Glick
- 11th Ken Glick
- 18th Abner Schlabach
- 25th Nancy Pajouhy

November Cleaning Schedule

- 4th Cox Family
- 11th Esch
- 18th Esch
- 25th Fullerton

November Song Leaders

- 4th Richard Glick
- 11th Carmeleta Beidler
- 18th Omar Zook
- 25th Allison Fletcher

Outreach

Thanksgiving Offering—November 18

Brrrrrr. We all cringe as we see the price of fuel rising, both at the gas pumps and at our home-heating fuel oil companies. For some in our communities, this winter will be a cold one, without enough resources to heat their homes. Our special Thanksgiving Offering (November 18) will be donated this year to SEVCA’s Fuel Assistance Program.

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) provides programs and opportunities for individuals and families, covering an area from White River Junction to Brattleboro. According to their mission statement, SEVCA exists “to help people cope with and reduce the hardships of poverty; create sustainable self-sufficiency; reduce the causes and move toward the elimination of poverty. SEVCA envisions a society in which all people participate in, contribute to and are valued by their communities, thereby increasing the health and vitality of both those communities and individuals.”

For anyone in this service area experiencing a heating emergency in their home, SEVCA is available to help.

This assistance includes help with the purchase of oil, kerosene, propane, or wood depending on the primary source of heat. They will work with the electric companies to prevent disconnection, and help negotiate payment plans. SEVCA serves over 1,400 families annually with fuel assistance. Our generous offerings will make a difference in the lives of people in our communities. We are told that assistance made possible with our donations will include a note stating the donation came from Taftsville Mennonite Chapel. We are humbled that God allows us to participate in reaching out to help neighbors in need. Check it out at www.sevca.com

The Haven

As we enjoy and celebrate harvest and Thanksgiving with an abundance of food and feasting, let’s not forget our neighbors at The Upper Valley Haven (local food shelf and homeless shelter). Donations of staples and non-perishable food items are regularly welcome. This month, let’s fill our donation box (in the Millen Room) to the brim!

Household of the Month for September

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 Wanner Family – Marilyn, Brett, Lena and Addison



Favorite Verses & Bible Story:

Addison—Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Lena—Daniel in the lion's den

Brett—John 14:6-7

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Marilyn—Jeremiah 29:11-14

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me..."

Taftsville Chapel Name Quiz

Created by Virginia Schlabach

FIND US IN THE BIBLE

Look in your Bible for a "who's who" of first names in our church family. In one case, you'll find a name and address in the same verse! In other verses, you'll find two names (x2). "Var." means the name is a variation of the one in the Bible. In some cases the person you know usually goes by a nickname. Write first and last names in the answer column. Stuck? Answers on page 6.

1. II Samuel 2:8 _____
2. Genesis 43:14 _____
3. I Samuel 16:13 _____
4. Judges 4:4 _____
5. Luke 1:26 (var.) _____
6. I Samuel 2:1 _____
7. Genesis 10:9 _____
8. II Kings 22:1 _____
9. A Gospel _____
10. Matthew 28:1 (x2) _____
11. A Minor Prophet _____
12. Numbers 13:13 _____
13. Genesis 6:9 _____
14. Genesis 36:11 _____
15. Genesis 24:15 _____
16. OT book + Luke 2:36 (var. x2) _____
17. Genesis 17:15 _____
18. Genesis 5:3 _____
19. Psalm 29:6 _____
20. 2 books before Titus _____

New Beginnings Church Prayer Requests

Remembering in believing prayer our brothers and sisters in the faith at New Beginnings:

- Pastor Jon Moore is deeply involved in trying to facilitate a community program called "Weed and Seed" (weeding out harmful influences, seeding in good influences and opportunities) in his neighborhood. Please pray with him that the community leaders and other interested people involved might understand what attitudes and resources are actually needed to see this work well over the long haul. Jon is up against a frustrating level of misunderstanding and misconception at this time.
- Sister Verid Green and Sister Karen Anderson are both in need of good housing that is handicap accessible.
- Sister Mary Morse is experiencing significant arthritis pain.
- Jon is concerned about his current finances in some difficult situations right now.

Church Librarian's Notes

Dear (Taftsville) Readers,

Have you read any books recently from the church library that you have especially enjoyed? Do you have any favorite books or videos that are classics that you would recommend? I would like to start highlighting some of our library items in the newsletter. I hope to start polling people informally, but please feel free to send me some recommendations. If you would like to write a short description, that would be great. Just individual titles with your name are also welcome. Also, if there is something that you would like to see added to our collection, please pass those on as well.

I have just finished reading **The Jesus I Never Knew** by Philip Yancey.

Yancey is a talented writer and respected Christian journalist who attempts to look at the Jesus portrayed in the gospels without preconceptions. His quote on the book jacket says, "The Jesus I got to know in writing this book is very different from the Jesus I learned about in Sunday school. In some ways he is more comforting; in some ways more terrifying." After reading the book, I would agree. One of my favorite passages follows:

"The personality that emerges from the Gospels differs radically from the image of Jesus I grew up with, an image I now recognize in some of the older Hollywood films about Jesus. In those films, Jesus recites his lines evenly and without emotion. He strides through life as the one calm character among a cast of flustered extras.

Nothing rattles him. He dispenses wisdom in flat, measured tones. He is, in short, the Prozac Jesus.

In contrast, the Gospels present a man who has such charisma that people will sit three days straight, without food, just to hear his riveting words. He seems excitable, impulsively 'moved with compassion' or 'filled with pity.' The Gospels reveal a range of Jesus' emotional responses: sudden sympathy for a person with leprosy, exuberance over his disciples' successes, a blast of anger at coldhearted legalists, grief over an unreceptive city, and then those awful cries of anguish in Gethsemane on the cross. He had nearly, inexhaustible patience with individuals but no patience at all with institutions and injustice."

This book helped me connect with the Jesus' humanity and made him - while maybe not more understandable - more three-dimensional.

We also have another book by Philip Yancey **Reaching for the Invisible God**.

I also recommend Brennan Manning's *Reflections for Ragamuffins*. I'd call it a daily devotional for people who don't usually like daily devotionals.

I must confess that Sheldon and I have had it out for periods of time that I'm too embarrassed to state and I think ours are the only names on the library card. While I'm not sure what that says about us, I hope it says good things about the book.

-Monica Esch



Taftsville Chapel Women—May 1984



Taftsville Chapel Men's "Suit Sunday"—1984

Taftsville Tidbit Trivia

Do you remember when...

35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

November 8, 1972

Five volumes of "Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories" will be purchased and placed in the church library. If these volumes are used, we may purchase the complete set

November 8, 1972

It was decided to go ahead at this time and purchase a tape recorder. Hopefully, with an additional speaker and microphone, those in the nursery will be able to hear the services.

30 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

November 1, 1977

Mary Guntz will be taking charge of the magazine library. If you wish to have your magazines returned, please be sure to mark them.

10 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

November 13, 1997

Allen presented the results of the 10,000 Villages Sale. This was the best year ever, with net sales over \$13,000. That will mean \$4500-\$5000 to give away.

Answers to FIND US IN THE BIBLE:

1. *Abner* Schlabach
2. *Benjamin* Beidler
3. *David* Beidler
4. *Deborah* du Plessis
5. *Gabrielle* Webber
6. *Hannah* Cox
7. *Hunter* Cox
8. *Josiah* Esch
9. *Mark* Belknap
10. *Mary* Fullerton & *Mary* Guntz
11. *Micah* Schlabach
12. *Michael* McCrory
13. *Noah* Wilson
14. *Omar* Zook
15. *Rebekah* Deitrich
16. *Ruth Ann* Glick & *Ann* Chalker
17. *Sarah* Glick
18. *Seth* Eisenberg
19. *Skip* Chalker, *West Lebanon*
20. *Timothy* Good

Send your contributions for "The Taftsville Chapel Current" to:

Janice.g.collins@valley.net

OR slip a note in my church mailbox

OR contact a Newsletter Staff Member:

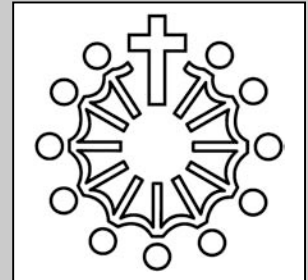
Carie Good, Janet North, Virginia Schlabach

Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship

Located in the village of Taftsville,
one block south of Rte. 4 on Happy Valley Rd.

<http://www.taftsvillechapel.org/>

(802) 457-1516



Randy Good, Pastor