

The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue Three

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Have you ever heard the phrase “frozen chosen” used to describe Presbyterians? What does that phrase mean? I’m so glad you asked! Tim from dictionaryofchristianese.com writes, “Primarily, the term refers to those Christians who are more reserved in their religious life. “Holy Rollers” these frozen chosen Protestants most certainly ain’t. The stereotypical frozen chosen are the folks in the Presbyterian and the Episcopalian denominations, though really the members of any church (in any denomination) can be labeled as “frozen.” It just has to do with how...reserved they are.”

Well! If you spend time with a few Presbyterians you’ll soon discover we can be a warm and compassionate group of folks with powerful notions about the importance of engaging in ministries of mission both at home and around the world. So strong is our conviction that mission is an essential component of our identity that we say so in our constitution.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s *Book of Order* declares that “the mission of the church is given form by God’s activity in the world as told in the Bible and understood by faith.” We are to be “the provisional demonstration of what God intends for all of humanity.” This call restates the charges for mission in the New Testament.

In more than 80 countries around the world, including the United States of America, Presbyterians engage in a variety of missions. As one theologian

puts it, “We have always been a church in mission, believing that at its core the church exists for mission that flows from the very heart of God” (Gwen Crawley, *A Mission-Minded Church* 1997).

For many of us, responding to God’s call to mission means faithfully serving on the church’s prayer team. For many others, it means taking a week’s vacation and helping out at Vacation Bible School. For some of us, it involves a firsthand experience on a mission trip where we encounter Christ and are ministered to by those we were planning and expecting to serve.” When talking with some of the people engaged in missional ministries, one discovers that the participants are transformed by God’s grace flowing in unexpected ways and through the unity that is found in a shared faith in and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Ms. Crawley eloquently describes what we Presbyterians believe about mission, writing, “Presbyterians believe mission is not so much an obligation but an opportunity — to see how God, who is already present in all places, can and does work in marvelous new ways helping us grow in our own faith and commitment to Christ’s mission.”

Shall we explore our God-given opportunities together? We can, with God’s help!

Pastor Debra

Baja Mission Opportunity



If you feel called to participate in a mission trip, please consider the presbytery's sponsored trip to the Baja California peninsula of Mexico, scheduled July 15-22. Plan to hear and chat with Bill Burslem, ruling elder at Opequon church in Winchester, as he provides our congregation a "Minute for Mission" about Baja at worship on March 5. Bill, a retired physician, is an inveterate mission participant in various locales and also has been an active supporter of the presbytery's Ethiopian Partnership.

Baja participants serve the Oaxacan Indian people of that area—showing the love of Christ in building houses and relationships during the week and participating in evening-time outreaches such as trips to local churches, rehabilitation centers and food distribution points in the community where building is occurring.

The Baja program, ongoing for 14 years, is a great first-time mission experience. While some 60 participant spaces are available this year, deadlines are set for finalizing preparations and beginning fund-raising. The first Baja planning meeting occurred February 12 in Staunton, VA. For complete information including registration forms, check out the mission website, <http://shenpres.org/baja-mission/>. You also may contact Rhonda Richie, team leader, at richietax@msn.com or 540-290-3404 or Keith Folsom at 540-294-0025. Please do so soon, as all slots usually are filled by May, at the latest.

Participants are responsible principally for their own travel costs in the U.S.—from home to San Diego, CA, and back. Fees and costs in Mexico are covered through grants, donations, and fund-raising. This includes buying materials to build houses, furnishings (including bedding), purchases of housewares and groceries, shoes and clothing for children, school uniforms and school supplies, and participants' lodging, meals and transportation to Mexico.

The most important aspect of this mission initiative is to build relationships. Relationships and friendships form not only with the people we serve in Mexico, but also among the congregations of the presbytery. Each year the team consists of people from 10-14 different congregations; we have had as many as 18 congregations participate in a single trip, and over 500 people from 34 Shenandoah Presbytery congregations have participated. Serving together in mission has led to increased understanding among members of different congregations; youth groups teaming up with other youth groups and members visiting other congregations for worship and special events.

Pictorial Directory! Register for March 27-28 Photography

It has been 10 years since the last pictorial directory—but we're on track for a really modern directory approach. . . and soon! Photography will be 1:30 to 9 p.m., on Monday, March 27, and 1:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28. Plan to sign up for a convenient time, any Sunday from February 26 through March 26.

We also are working to make sign-up available on-line via the church's website page. We'll announce when that's available. You also may call Pastor Carl at 304-754-3814 if you won't be at church on Sundays and/or won't be able to use the on-line sign-up.

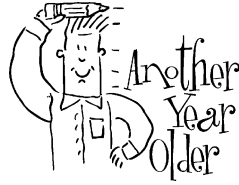
Every individual or family who participates will receive a free 8x10 photo and a free pictorial directory. Portraits of individuals or groups in a variety of sizes and arrangements will be available for purchase through Lifetouch, the company that provides photographers and publishes directories. Price lists will be available at sign-up.

While a key objective is to obtain photos of members and friends for the church's directory, it also will be possible for our relatives, friends and neighbors to sign up for portraits, as well.

Eventually, the directory will be available password-protected on the church website. And the directory will be kept up-to-date electronically.

March Birthdays

- 8 Rob Sloan
- 10 Kenny Cushwa
- 12 Gwen Noll
- 14 Paige Ruble
- 14 JR Sloan
- 15 Brenda Carper
- 19 Bill Berg
- 22 Ellie Sloan
- 27 Mike Fleagle
- 28 Heather Locke, Darla Grove
- 31 Helen Brown
- 31 Shelly McFillan



It is Time to Prepare for VBS

It is that time of year again when we begin to prepare for Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held the week of June 19-23 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Without the help of the congregation this important ministry to our youth would not be possible. We need a teacher for the 3-4 grade class. If you have a heart for children and feel called to this important ministry give Fawn a call at 754-8211.



It's that Time of Year

Crystal Mason will receive donations for **Easter Lilies** until April 1. They will cost about \$10.00 each. Anyone wishing to make a donation in honor or memory of a loved one should see Crystal as soon as possible. Checks should be made payable to Crystal.



March Greeters

Crystal Mason - Head Greeter

- 5 Crystal Mason, Rob and Tina Sloan
- 12 Crystal, Becky Hawthorne, Diana McKinley
- 19 Crystal Mason, Bea and Craig Taynton
- 26 Crystal, Dixie and Avalon Blizzard



Nursery Attendants

- March 5 Fawn and John Fleagle
- March 12 Tina and Ellie Sloan
- March 19 Kathy Goodell, JR Sloan
- March 26 Kelsey and Kadence Blaine

Pray Without Ceasing

- Bill & Billy Berg
- Joan Chambers
- Jimmy Cloud
- Kenny Cushwa
- Susie Cushwa
- John Fleagle
- Mary Hodges
- Irvin Horst
- Ted Largent
- Tink Manor
- Pete and Scott Mekkelson
- Bea Taynton
- Carolyn and Ernie Weidman
- Virginia Snyder
- Bill Zombro



Daylight Savings Time begins on March 12. Please turn your clocks ahead one hour.

Falling Waters Presbyterian Church Pavilion

Our pavilion has been enjoyed by many of us already, and it is available to be used and enjoyed by our church family. The pavilion is a facility of the church and will be governed by many of the same policies as does Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary.

The pavilion is available to be used by, our church family. This is described as any member of, or anyone who attends Falling Waters Presbyterian Church on a regular basis.

Anyone who falls within the church family as described above, may request the use of the pavilion for a group or family that they are a member of. The stipulation is, that the church family individual must be in attendance for the entire time the pavilion is being used, and that individual accepts full responsibility for the facility while in their use.

A request must be made to use the pavilion and approval given, before using it. This request can be made by contacting the church office at 304-754-8211, or by contacting Steve Aulabuagh at 304-258-3511.

The request must specify if you are asking for use of just the pavilion area (eating area) or the entire facility which includes the kitchen. For all approved usages, the restrooms will be opened.

The facility, restrooms and kitchen, will be unlocked for you on the day of usage.

The picnic tables are not to be loaned out or removed from the pavilion.

The area is to be left in a clean condition and all trash removed.

No tobacco or alcoholic beverages are permitted.

The pavilion is not to be used for "for profit" activities.

The pavilion facility will be open in April and the Maintenance Committee will close it and winterize it the beginning of October. This is based on calendar dates. If weather permits and there is a request for usage, a later close date will be considered.

Concerts in the Community

Our next concert, on March 26, features **Simple Gifts**. Some of you may remember them from the last time they performed.

Two women plus ten instruments equals one good time when **Simple Gifts** takes the stage. This award-winning duo performs on an impressive array of instruments, including two violins, mandolin, hammered dulcimer, recorders, and guitar plus some more unusual instruments like the bowed psaltery, baritone fiddle, banjolin, guitjo, and doumbek.

Simple Gifts presents a wide variety of ethnic folk music, including everything from lively Irish jigs and down-home American reels to hard-driving Klezmer *freilachs*, haunting Gypsy melodies, and exotic Balkan dance tunes. Throughout their performances, they put their own distinctive stamp on traditional tunes, blending styles from diverse cultures with their American roots.

Grow to Share

We will collect an offering in March to go to **HACC** (Hedgesville Area Community of Churches) for their **Grow-to-Share** program which provides fresh produce to people in need in conjunction with Loaves and Fishes. A special Minute for Mission is scheduled for March 12 to let us know more about the program.

It's Time for the BGB!

The Men's Big Greasy Breakfast is scheduled for March 18 at 9:00 a.m. Fellowship and food - can't get any better



than that! The guest speaker will be If you are interested in volunteering to help, please let John McDonald know, 304-274-2372.

Thank You!

Carolyn and I would like to thank the congregation for the cards, prayers and many acts of kindness during my cancer treatments and her heart surgery and continuing recovery. Thanks to the carolers and others for their visits at Clary Grove. They made a very trying time much brighter.

Ernie Weidman

Ash Wednesday Service



The churches of Falling Waters, Gerrardstown and Tuscarora would like to invite all the churches in EPMC to an **Ash Wednesday Service** at 6:30 pm at Tuscarora Presbyterian Church on March 1, 2017.

Kidz Power Pacs

A big thank you to our members who helped pack food for hungry children in the past two months:

January

Diana McKinley, Becky Hawthorne, Renee Campbell, Katie Fallon, Nat Hylton, and Jake Hylton.

February

Becky Hawthorne and Diana McKinley.

It would be wonderful if more of our members would join in this worthy endeavor – just two hours of your time.

The Messenger

Falling Waters Presbyterian Church
2928 Hammonds Mill Road
Hedgesville, West Virginia 25427

Blessed are the Congregations with Parish Associates!

Falling Waters Presbyterian Church is indeed blessed with many gifted pastoral leaders. From called and installed pastors, to interim pastors, to guest pastors, and now our very own Parish Associate pastor: The Reverend Carl Howard (Honorably Retired) - FWPC has had a wealth of strong, encouraging, equipping, loving, and faithful pastors. It isn't news to most folks, but for those of us who are newer, Pastor Carl has been faithfully sharing his leadership with FWPC for several years. The Session, Pastor Debra, Pastor Carl, and the members of Shenandoah Presbytery have taken the necessary steps to make FWPC's relationship with Pastor Carl official. Yay!

For those among us who may be unfamiliar with the role of a Parish Associate, here's a bit of information that might be helpful. A parish associate relationship is intended to provide a means by which a teaching elder (Pastor Carl!) who serves in a validated ministry other than the local parish (church) or who is a member at large or is retired may maintain a relationship with a particular church in keeping with ordination to the ministry of teaching elder. The parish associate works with the pastor for the purpose of building up the body of Christ in a particular time and place. The focus of the parish associate relationship is to provide an opportunity for a non-parish teaching elder to connect in a meaningful way to a local congregation. Through a renewable, one-year covenant agreement, signed by Pastor Carl, Pastor Debra, the Session of FWPC, and Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, our relationship is recognized and approved and dare I say blessed by Shenandoah Presbytery.

Those of us who have opportunities to talk and work with Pastor Carl have come to enjoy and value his wisdom, creativity, sincerity, commitment, compassion, humor, generosity, ability to consider many perspectives, attention to detail, many gifts, and faithfulness to family and

friends. It is a joy and genuine privilege to be in ministry with Pastor Carl and the members and friends of Falling Waters Presbyterian Church. I believe we, and our neighbors, will not only be blessed by this covenantal relationship, but I strongly believe will also be better able to be a blessing to others as a result. A **Service of Installation will be held on March 12** for Pastor Carl and Elders Elect Ruth Berg, Kathy Goodell and John MacDonald.

To God be all glory, honor and praise!

Pastor Debra