

# The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue Five

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## From the Pastor's Heart

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I can hardly believe I've been here almost one year- time truly flies when you're having fun! Some of you know that I rarely attended church as a child. Like so many people, my parents didn't want to have anything to do with "organized religion."

My sister and I often spent weekends with our grandparents and when we did, they took us to church. It was a small, rural, baptist church in Mooresville, Indiana. The buildings were old and worn from decades of service. The people were warm and welcoming, opening their hearts, sharing their Bibles and crayons with two quiet and shy girls who showed up every now and then. I don't remember much about what we did in the Sunday school classes. Nor do I remember much about the worship services.

What I do remember are the friendly smiles on the faces of people we met. In addition to the welcoming smiles, I remember that after that first visit, we were part of the family. We didn't show up often, but when we did, people treated us like we were part of the church family. They never asked anything of us. They simply welcomed us and invited us to participate in whatever was going on that particular Sunday.

My love of smaller membership churches was born from the seeds planted during my visits to this church. The warmth, the intimacy, even the squabbles, all contributed to my feelings of comfort and security. My questions were always welcomed as was my shy quietness. Our problems were embraced and seen as opportunities to extend Christian

hospitality. For instance, when my younger sister grew distressed at being separated from me during the Sunday school hour, folks encouraged us to stay together and attend either her class or the one to which I was assigned. It mattered to them that we felt cared for and safe.

In that small, country church I learned that I belong, that I am part of the family of God, even though I might only enter the church doors a few times each year. I learned about the importance of giving back to God and others - even if it was only a quarter given to me by my grandparents. I learned that God so loved the world and sent the only son, Jesus, who loves me (this I know!) through their caring hospitality. And I learned about the extravagant, abundant grace of God through the generosity of people whose names I never knew.

Paying that gift forward is one of the best ways I know to express our gratitude to God for the blessings we receive. I pray God will grant us many opportunities to share with others what I, what we, have been given. I know that together, we will welcome those opportunities with joyful hearts.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



# Pray Without Ceasing

Bill & Billy and Ruth Berg  
 Jimmy Cloud  
 Kenny Cushwa  
 Susie Cushwa  
 Mary Hodges  
 Irvin Horst  
 Ted Largent  
 Tink Manor  
 John McKune  
 Pete Mekkelson  
 Virginia Snyder  
 Carolyn Weidman  
 Bill Zombro



May 7	Fawn and John Fleagle
May 14	Nancy Shipper, Tiffany Henry
May 21	Robin Brown, Helen Brown
May 28	Kathy Goodell, Ellie Sloan

## VBS Needs Your Help



VBS is in need of **monetary donations for snacks**. If you would like to make a donation, please see Fawn.

The VBS Staff will meet on **May 30** at 7:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall to make final plans for June.

## Heritage Sunday



Please join us on May 21st as we celebrate **Heritage Sunday** with a picnic in our pavilion immediately

following worship. Please bring a covered-dish to share. The Fellowship and Recreation Committee will provide fried chicken, tableware, drinks and ice. There is a sign-up sheet posted in Fellowship Hall. Please register your name and the number of people from your family attending so we can make sure we have enough chicken for everyone.

## May Greeters

Ruth Berg, Head Greeter

May 7	Ruth Berg, Phil and Gwen Noll
May 14	Ruth Berg, Susie Cushwa, Crystal Mason
May 21	Ruth Berg, Tammy Hylton, Pamela Fleagle
May 28	Ruth Berg, Don and Joan Campbell

## May Birthdays

May	1	Trevor Henry
	12	Mason Chambers
	12	Tony Heaton
	15	Branden Walters
	15	Sharilyn Bovey
	15	Craig Taynton
	15	Richard Blizzard
	17	Heather Witmer
	18	Patty Runkles
	20	Gladys Burcker
	23	Avalon Blizzard
	23	Michael Campbell
	24	Donna Steele



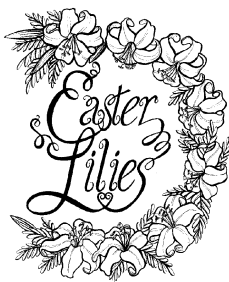
## Maintenance Committee News

**Pavilion:** we will be opening the pavilion in May for the summer season. We invite the congregation to make good use of it for family reunions, organization picnics, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Please schedule your event in the pavilion by calling the church office at 304-754-8211. Enjoy your summer.

## Easter Lilies were given in honor and memory of:

Geraldine Keseker Aikens  
Jack G. Baumbaugh  
William and Lena Berg  
Arthur Blizzard  
Gary Carper, Sr.  
Jordy Carper  
Parents of Chamblin Family  
Deceased members of Cloud Family  
Donald and Katherine Cushwa  
Wayne Cushwa  
Ellis and Virginia Donaldson  
Rog and Lucille Fleagle  
Edmund Goodell  
Karen Runkles Gray  
Nick Hawthorne  
Arlene Herr  
Louis and Reva Hilliard  
John Horner  
Madalyn Horst  
Jack and Glenna Lang  
Doc Linton  
Father of Shelley McFillan  
Scott, Sarah and Charlotte McKinley  
LeRoy and Ruth McWayne  
Louise Mullenax  
Paul and Thelma Pittsnogle  
Noah and Deronda Rickman  
Herbert and Ethel Runkles  
George and Sally Tobin  
Paula Diane Tobin  
Lee and Florence Weidman

and many more not specifically named



## Attention Men!



The Men of the Church will host coffee hour on Mother's Day, May 14. Men, please see John MacDonald about the dish you plan to bring. There is also a sign-up sheet posted in Fellowship Hall.

## Four Cents A Meal Sunday

On the first Sunday of each month we collect our **Four Cents A Meal Offering**. This hunger offering is collected on the first Sunday of each month. 25% of the offering benefits Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes and the other 75% is sent to the PCUSA for world-wide hunger programs. It is called Four Cents A Meal because it is suggested that each family contribute four cents for each meal each family member eats in one month, i.e. a family of four would contribute 16 cents per meal per day. 16 cents x 3 meals a day = 48 cents. 48 cents x 30 days = \$14.40 per month.

## Serving our Community Thanks to Our Volunteers!

**Kidz Power Pacs** (March 2017) - Becky Hawthorne, Diana McKinley, and Kate Lewis Brown.

**Simple Gifts Concert** – Brenda Carper, Kathy Goodell, Marge Chamblin, Carl Howard, Bea Taynton, Renee Campbell, John Brown, Kate Lewis Brown. Also, Jason and Tyler Henry for putting up and taking down the stage.

**Book Fair at Potomack Intermediate School** – Kate Lewis Brown

# Falling Waters Presbyterian Concerts in the Community

presents the  
"The Band-Changed"  
on  
Sunday, May 7, 2017  
at  
3:00 p.m.

The Band-Changed is a Christian Rhythm and Blues, Rock and Soul Band. The band's roots are in Gospel, Soul, and the Blues. Their music is positive, uplifting, and God-honoring.

**Tickets:** Adults - \$5.00; Students K-12 - \$3.00. Children younger than 4 years are free but we do ask that you not let children disturb other patrons. Seating is first-come, first-serve except in the section reserved for subscribers. Doors open to patrons at 2:15 p.m. Young children must be accompanied by an adult to sit in the balcony.

**For tickets, or information,** call Kate at 304-754-5039 or email to the address below. If you would like to reserve a ticket for a patron in a wheelchair or otherwise disabled, please be sure to call Kate so we can reserve a place for the patron.

## Looking Back with Ron Hansen Trustees

Since the very founding of our Church we have had Trustees. Our original land grant in 1775 was signed by our Church Trustee's, Hugh Cunningham, Tunis Newkirk, Alexander Porterfield and George Porterfield. For 221 consecutive years our church, the Session and congregation have been blessed to have Trustees

Like our Church, their responsibilities occasionally have changed. Their primary role is the upkeep and manage of the cemetery, sell lots, work with families and the funeral home at time of burial. Keep the cemetery clean and mowed, trim branches, trees, reset old fallen markers. Trustees have a Cemetery Fund. This money comes from selling lots, and receiving

designated gift money to the cemetery for long term preservation and upkeep. This Cemetery Fund is used only for the cemetery. It is not used for the general church operating expenses.

Traditionally the Trustees have operated and managed the Cemetery and its fund independently without influence from the Session.

As times have changed and the General Assembly updates the Book of Order, how a church is to operate is updated too. In this case the Book of Order states the Session is over ALL decisions made at the church. This does not mean our Session wants to usurp the responsibility or duties of the Trustees .

In keeping with the Book of Order over the last couple years the trustees have begun to work more closely with the Session, regularly reporting to the session their financial holdings as well as other decisions they feel need to be addressed with the cemetery . This is a good. The Session needs to be informed and updated in all aspects of the Church. Recently when the large Maple tree had to be taken down the trustees paid for this and arranged it. When we recently black topped our drive and parking lot again the trustees paid their portion of this working closely in decisions with the Session.

Trustees have been an important and historical part of our church since its very beginning,

History and Tradition matter. Ending this long held tradition of Trustees, should never happen. We will always need and rely on a group of church members to do exactly what the Trustees do.

Ron Hansen

