

The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue Two

February 2018

Volume XXXIV

Universal Day of Prayer for Students

“Get the word out. Teach all these things. And don’t let anyone put you down because you’re young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity. Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed - keep that dusted off and in use” (1 Timothy 4:12, The Message).

With these words, Paul is encouraging Timothy to not let anyone look down on him or give him a bad time when he’s preaching and teaching. It’s helpful to note that Paul would not have offered this advice to Timothy unless people were actually already doing exactly that. We can imagine what that must have looked like and how it affected Timothy. Perhaps there were a few elders in the church who were uncomfortable with the young man presuming to preach and teach them. It might have been difficult for some of the older church folk to swallow their pride and listen with an open mind and heart. But the reality is that since Timothy was taught by Paul, Timothy’s teachings were essentially Paul’s teachings. Paul is expecting Timothy to remember his mission and his role. He was expecting Timothy to walk in love, faith, and purity, so that the church members and friends would have nothing to complain about where Timothy was concerned, no matter what his age.

I imagine Timothy was encouraged by Paul’s letter. I imagine he stood a little taller and spoke with a bit more confidence thanks to his teacher, Paul. A

bit of encouragement can go a long way. And it’s important for us to empower and equip young people to answer Jesus’ call to that special gift of ministry they’re given. It’s important for them to be encouraged to keep it dusted off and in use for the building up of God’s kingdom here on earth.

A lot of church members claim to want children, youth, and young adults to become part of their church family. Sadly, all too often, what we mean is that we want them to join and find a pew to sit in (preferably not ours) and when the offering is collected, to add their fair share to the church’s coffers.

Clearly Paul and the early church had other ideas. And so do we! On the first Sunday of Lent, February 18, 2018, some of our youth will be leading us in worship in a new way. One of those more obvious ways is that JR Sloan will be preaching that morning. I am confident that there will be much joy and gratitude for the message he will share with us that day. I am confident that we will look to him with delight as JR and others dust off and use their gifts for ministry.

I pray God will be praised and glorified and I invite you to join me in celebrating the sharing of the many gifts of our younger family members.

All praise and thanks be to God who creates us, gives us gifts and abilities to use in service to others.

Joyfully,
Pastor Debra



MISSION TRIP JULY 13-19, 2018

Join us on a week-long mission trip to Craigsville, Virginia, right in our very own Presbytery. Mission teams will:

*Prepare for their visit through a study of the culture of generational poverty and food insecurities

*Participate in and help lead in creative worship and devotion experiences during the week

*Plan and provide an activity and lunch for children in three communities

*Use the food pantry to plan for children's lunches to understand how it supports those who need the extra support to alleviate hunger



This trip will be a great experience for those of us who are just beginning in the mission field and a great chance for those experienced workers to help us "greenhorns". Information is

available in the Church Office or see Renee Campbell. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN THE ADVENTURE!! imagine it. But its unlikely that your mouth will water

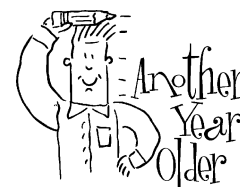
Pray Without Ceasing

Bill and Billy Berg
The Family of Jimmy Cloud
Kenny Cushwa
Susie Cushwa
Mary Hodges
Irvin Horst
Ruth Linton
John MacDonald
Tink Manor
John and Margy McKune
Pete and Scott Mekkelson
Virginia Snyder
Bill Zombro



February Birthdays

1 Gail Cushwa
1 John MacDonald
2 April Higginbottom
2 Diana McKinley
4 Kathy Goodell
8 Diana Manor
11 Sue Mekkelson
12 Pamela Fleagle
17 Susie Cushwa
19 Robin Brown
21 Pete Mekkelson
24 Nat Hylton



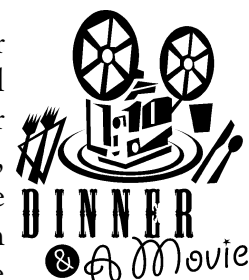
February Greeters

Donna Pill- Head Elder

4 Donna Pill, Bettie Jane Porterfield, ShellyMcFillan
11 Donna and Richard Pill, Marge Chamblin
18 Donna Pill, Bill and Judith Lawrensen,
25 Donna Pill, Joan and Don Campbell

Movie Night

Join us on February 17 for **Dinner and A Movie**. We will meet at Ruby Tuesday at 5:00 for dinner followed by the movie, "The Intern" starring Anne Hathaway and Robert DeNiro, in Fellowship Hall at 7:00. There will be refreshments and door prizes.





Souper Bowl of Caring



February 4	Robin Brown, Helen Brown
February 11	Lyn Hansen, Pamela Fleagle
February 18	Audrey MacDonald, Fawn Fleagle
February 25	Renee Campbell, Ellie Sloan

The “Souper Bowl of Caring” is an effort to glorify God and care for “the least of these our brothers” by encouraging people to give one dollar each as they leave worship on February 4. The Sardines will have a large soup pot to collect the donations as parishioners leave worship the morning of the game. This involvement teaches our young people that they can make a positive difference in the lives of others. All monies will be given to Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes at Hedgesville United Methodist Church. Let’s begin the new year by sharing one of the many blessings that we have so richly enjoyed — that delicious bowl of soup. Thank you to all who join with us in loving God in this simple but significant way. [Thank you to Ellie Sloan for the colorful sign posted on the bulletin board in the hall.]

Pancake Dinner Scheduled



SHROVE TUESDAY The Sardines will host their annual **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** on February 11 immediately following worship to thank the congregation for all its support throughout the year. Join them for biscuits, pancakes and sausage gray and other delectable fattening comfort food.

Rev. Andrew L. "Lon" Snelson, Honorably Retired, Dies

It is with sadness that we report the passing of the **Rev. Andrew L. "Lon" Snelson** on Wednesday. Rev. Snelson first served the Hedgesville Presbyterian Church beginning in the early 1980s and then served as a pastor of yoked churches to Tomahawk, and Little Falls. He had a career among us that spanned approximately 20 years and was widely known and respected among many denominations. He continued to do pulpit supply after retirement and served the Mountain Chapel for a time. His funeral will be held in Elkins, WV.

Rev. Andrew L. Snelson funeral will be held in Elkins, WV at the convenience of the family. Due to the weather and dangerous temperatures, the family did not want others to have to make the trip to Elkins.

Andrew L.'s wife, Phyllis Snelson, address is 22523 Wildcat Road - Germantown, MD 20876 if you wish to send a card.

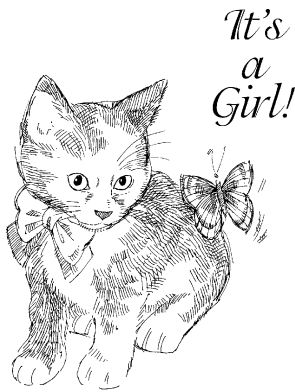
The Lenten Journey Begins



The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts forty days excluding Sundays. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week and in that week are three of the most significant days on the Christian Calendar. These days are Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Several worship opportunities are planned for Lent to help children, youth and adults experience the Easter Season in a meaningful way. Please join us for a **Joint Ash Wednesday Service** on February 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Gerrardstown Presbyterian. Watch the bulletin for further details.

You are Invited

Helen Brown and Marge Chamblin invite the ladies of FWPC to a baby shower for Helen's daughter, Shannon Roberts, on February 10, at 12:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Helen at 304-274-2558. Shannon is registered at Target.



Pastor Debra on Vacation

Pastor Debra will be on vacation from January 31 to February 15. Pastor Carl Howard will be our guest speaker on February 4 and 11 and will provide pastoral care in her absence. If you need to get in touch with him you can call 304-754-3814.

Statements of Giving

If you would like a statement of the total monetary contributions you made to the church in 2017, please email or call Jeff Campbell. 304-433-1475. Jeffnee85@yahoo.com

Get Your Irish On for St. Paddy's Day!

The **Blackthorn Trio** will be performing Irish music on Sunday, March 11, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. at FWPC.

Flock Notes



C. James Cloud (Big Jimmy) passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on January 20. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his sons, Robert and Jimmy, and their families.

Spring Mills High School student, **Tiffany Henry**, participated in a drone technology bootcamp at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College. Students learned to build and operate a drone from scratch. At the end of the course all students received a drone technology certificate and also partial college credit.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Sam and Becky Tobin** who were married in our sanctuary on February 20th.



Ruth Linton is recovering from surgery at Williamsport Retirement Village in room 1237. She would be happy to have visitors.

John MacDonald thanks the congregation for its cards, prayers and visits following his surgery. He is doing well.

Lenten Devotionals

Throughout history, God sent prophets to communicate God's will, saying, "Thus says the Lord God." There is a strong connection between the mission of Jesus and that of the prophets. The prophets communicated the word of God; Jesus is the Word of God. The prophets predicted the coming of the prince of peace; Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Jesus not only continued the prophetic ministry; Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophetic ministry. This Lent, the prophetic words of Jesus will be our guide to reflection, prayer and discernment. Lenten devotionals, "**Jesus and the Prophets**" can be found in the vestibule. Please take one per family.



Join us for the February EPMC Music Fest

Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 3:30pm

at

Tabler Presbyterian Church

5623 Tabler Station Rd

Inwood, WV 25405

Plan to stay for refreshments and fellowship time following the concert, which will include a countdown of the Top 10 hymns of all time!

Sponsorships for Our Youth

The **Outreach Committee** sponsors sports teams, choruses and other such activities in which our children and youth participate. It serves the dual purpose of supporting the young people in the church as the same time we get our church's name out to the public on the t-shirts the team members wear, the banner that announces sponsors, etc. We pay for this through the Outreach Committee budget, but it was suggested to me that perhaps some folk in the congregation might want to contribute to this program. If you would like to do so, please put your contribution in the offering, marking it clearly for the Outreach Committee Sponsorships. Also, if your child is involved with a sports team or other activity that needs sponsorships, please let me know. Currently we are sponsoring a soccer team, a softball team, and will be sponsoring a show choir.

Kate Lewis Brown

Sharing Some Thoughts

A few years ago, I was listening to two groups of talking heads having a rather irritating and lengthy panel discussion on the Muslim religion. One side said it is a peaceful wonderful religion and the other side said it is a violent hate filled religion. Being the type of individual to make up my own mind, I finally turned it off but decided I was going to buy a Quran and read it and decide the issue for myself. I read it cover to cover and some unexpected and surprising entries popped up.

The first one was Mary and the virgin birth is recognized. She is highly revered, but not as the mother of the son of God. They do not recognize the Trinity and Jesus is portrayed several times in the Quran as a messenger and prophet of Allah. Unless I missed something, the other thing about Mary in the Quran, she is the only woman named in the entire Quran.

Although Jesus is not viewed as the son of God, he is portrayed as having the ability to perform miracles. Keep in mind that Mohammad's version of the Quran was written about 635 AD. Of the many miracles of Jesus: healing the sick, casting out demons, walking on water, raising the dead, the only miracle put into the Quran is one not found in the Bible but found in the Apocrypha in the Infancy Gospel of Thomas describing the missing twelve years (in the Bible), of Jesus life. In this Gospel, Thomas describes an occasion where a youthful Jesus playing with his friends forms the shape of a dove out of the dirt, breaths on it, the dove comes to life and flies away. I was struck with the similarity of this story and the creation story in Genesis, where God forms man out of the dirt, breaths on him and man comes to life. I couldn't understand how even with this one example in their holy book, they could only present and believe Jesus is only a prophet.

I have read the Bible cover to cover and the Quran cover to cover. Now I do not consider myself as an expert on either one, but in doing so, I did arrive at a decision. When you see me in church, don't ask me what that decision is because I won't share it with you, but I do challenge you to buy a Quran, read it and make your own decision.

John Brown

FWPC KID'S MORNING

Parents/guardians – would you like a Saturday morning to complete a project, do a little shopping, plan a lunch date? Let FWPC take your children for a fun morning on Saturday, **March 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** We are planning a morning for them of fun and activities similar to a VBS day, to include lunch and a little down time right before you pick them up (and maybe take them home for a nap?) See the church office for Registration Forms. Spaces are limited so register NOW.

Children's Workers Needed



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -- please see Renee on how you can help with this much needed ministry to our parents/guardians and children. We need YOU.

SARDINES ON THE MOVE!!

Our Sardines are gearing up in 2018 for some great plans for mission work (with a little fun on the side) and are in need of funds. Please help support our awesome Youth by attending our **Annual Pancake Supper** on Sunday, February 11, 2018, following the church service and, of course, the Easter Breakfast on Easter morning. They need our support and they feed us well – a win, win for all of us.

