

# The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue Three

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One of my favorite pastimes is people watching. It's an activity I learned while hanging out with my father after his second heart surgery. If you've ever done it, you know it's something of an art form. One of the benefits is that you can apply the same ideas to artwork.

Take this painting, for instance. Painted by the artist, Ford Madox Brown, it's titled, "Jesus Washing Peter's Feet," painted in 1856. When you "watch" the people in the painting, you notice that there's a lot going on here. Some of the gathered are gazing at each other, as if to use another's reaction to decide what their own might be. Some are watching what's happening - one person is reaching for his own foot. Is he about to remove his sandal or is he pulling it tighter onto his foot? Another person seems intent on resisting, his hand raised and outstretched. Then again, maybe it's not an intent to resist. Perhaps he's raising his hand to ask if he can be next?

If you were in the painting, I wonder what your reaction to Jesus' activity might be. Foot washing is a big deal in Jesus' time. In civilizations where sandals were the primary footwear, this practice can

be found. A gesture of hospitality, a host would provide water for guests to wash their feet when arriving for a visit. Sometimes, the host also provided a servant to wash the guest's feet. In a time when travel was primarily by foot, washing, or having your feet washed, was a wonderful way to feel refreshed and revived at the end of a journey.

The tradition of foot washing toward the end of each yearly journey of Lent is the day that begins the Triduum (the Three Days), when we remember the new commandment Christ gave us, along with celebrating the last meal he shared with his disciples prior to his death. Historically, this was also the traditional day on which those who had undergone a public penance under church discipline would be restored to full communion.

We know this tradition as Maundy Thursday. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin word found in John 13 when Jesus says, "I give you a new commandment..." (mandatum). The new mandate (mandatum) was applied to the rite of foot-washing on this day. The service, while reflective and somber, isn't inherently mournful. It celebrates pardon and restoration, humility and intimacy, and embodies the mystery of the eternal redemptive presence.

While foot-washing itself wasn't such a shocking activity in and of itself, it was the identity of the servant who washed their feet of others that caused the jolt of surprise. In a religious tradition that emphasizes "the priesthood of all believers" over hierarchies of authority and power, all members of the body of Christ can, and should, kneel before each other and wash each others' feet. It symbolizes our servanthood within and beyond the body of Christ.

While on this night we are remembering and celebrating that final meal that Jesus shared with his

disciples, we are primarily sharing a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for us by God. The meal is grounded in the many meals Jesus shared with his disciples. It's also grounded in the meals Jesus shared with others: sinners, crowds, and strangers met during his travels. Additionally, it foreshadows the meals Jesus will have following his resurrection. It relates to the unfolding of God's purpose and ultimate destiny of humankind and the world. The final act of this service is the Stripping of the Church. Done in silence, this final act of the service is unhurried and orderly.

First, the candles are extinguished. Tables are stripped of all cloth and vessels. Textile hangings, candelabra, flowers, etc. are, one by one, carried out of the room. The stark, bare, unadorned church reflects Jesus' abandonment during the night in Gethsemane. It is a dramatic, visual representation that gives people a powerful depiction of our Savior's desolation. The church remains bare all through the Good Friday, and Holy Saturday (The Great Vigil) until Easter Sunday when the process is reversed and the bare church is dressed for the celebration of the resurrection.

At the end of the Maundy Thursday service there is no blessing given, no postlude is played. This service, along with any service on Good Friday and Holy Saturday are one unified ritual/service. The church is to remain in semidarkness, and all leave the Maundy Thursday service in silence, thus marking the transition from Eucharistic celebration to crucifixion and death. Jesus the Christ, head of the church, is stripped of power and glory and is now fully in the hands, the power his captors and accusers. And there he will remain. For now.

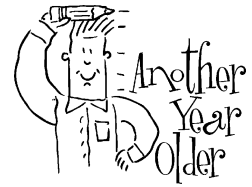
Pastor Debra



**Daylight Savings Time** begins on March 11. Please turn your clocks ahead one hour.

## 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



## March Greeters

Crystal Mason - Head Greeter

- 4 Crystal Mason, Rob and Tina Sloan
- 11 Crystal, Becky and Sam Tobin
- 18 Crystal, Bea and Craig Taynton
- 25 Crystal, Dixie and Avalon Blizzard



- March 4 Nikki and Trey Arvon
- March 11 Tina and Ellie Sloan
- March 18 Kathy Goodell, JR Sloan
- March 25 Kelsey and Kadence Blaine

## 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 hopefully be held the week of June 11-15 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Without the help of the congregation this important ministry to our youth would not be possible. 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 March 25. 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.



## Pray Without Ceasing

Bill, Billy & Ruth Berg  
Kenny Cushwa  
Susie Cushwa  
Mary Hodges  
Irvin Horst  
Ruth Linton  
John MacDonald  
The McKune Family  
Pete and Scott Mekkelson  
Rev. Bill Moore  
Virginia Snyder  
Bill Zombro



## 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 John MacDonald at 304-274-2372.

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.

## Join us on Easter Morning

On Easter, April 1, the morning will begin with a **Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.**



Worship will be followed by the **Sunrise Breakfast** in Fellowship Hall sponsored by the Sardines. You won't want to miss this delicious meal of country and city ham, scrambled eggs, toast, raisin sweet rolls with extra vanilla frosting, orange juice, coffee and tea. Breakfast will

**EASTER EGG HUNT!**



be followed by an **Egg Hunt at 9:00** on the manse lawn for all children under 12. The Sardines will be hosting the hunt and would appreciate donations of small pieces of candy to fit inside plastic eggs. Sunday School will follow for the

children. We'll round out the morning with **worship with communion at 10:00**. We will include the **dressings of the cross** in both services. Please bring flowers from your home gardens. This is always a very meaningful Sunday in the life of our church and you won't want to miss one minute of the celebration.

## FWPC Kids 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 to register **NOW -- deadline for registration is March 4.**

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.

## Paula's Community Day

It is that time of year again, when we need to start planning for our **SECOND Annual Paula's Community Day**, this year tentatively set for Saturday, September 16, 2018. Last year was a wonderful success and an amazing day – let's do it again.

Please mark your calendars and join us on **Sunday, March 11, 2018, at 11:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall (during Coffee Hour) for a planning meeting, and bring your thoughts and ideas. Come and support this important outreach event to our community.

## Jump On The Mission Trip Train

Come join in on a mission trip to Craigsville, Virginia, right in our very own Presbytery, **tentatively scheduled for Friday, July 13 – Thursday, July 19, 2018.** 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!!**

## Reflections on Systemic Racism in Society and in the Church

*What responsibility does the church bear for the creation and elimination of systemic institutional racism?* Intrigued by this question, we participated in a recent seminar on “Racism, Power, & Dominance in the US and the Church.” Hosted by Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, the two-day event, held on February 16-17, was facilitated by two multi-cultural professional women (with backgrounds in theology and sociology) from Crossroads Antiracism Organizing & Training [[crossroadsantiracism.org](http://crossroadsantiracism.org)]. Crossroads is an NGO with a focus on “*Dismantling racism, building racial justice in institutions.*” The Seminar’s participant-audience was comprised mostly of Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church members, some other Shepherdstown residents and a few interlopers like us from nearby communities.

We have put together a brief report on the Seminar, including some of our personal reflections. Copies of this report are available on the table in the Narthex. Noting that the Seminar was “informative, thought provoking and challenging,” they included among their reflections:

\*The recognition that all people are racially prejudiced (regardless of their racial or ethnic identity) and the understanding of the importance of distinguishing between “racial prejudice” and “racism.”

**\*Race prejudice + the misuse of power by systems and institutions = Racism**

\*“The historical review of the extent to which racism and supremacy of ‘whiteness’ (not to be confused with the current ‘alt-right’ demonstrations of ‘white supremacy’) have been reflected in Western nation-building ... and the historical spread and development of the formal church was sobering!”

\*Recognizing that there are effective strategies for becoming a truly multicultural antiracist institution was encouraging.

We hope that you will read the full report available in the vestibule, and, wonder if it might be a catalyst for further deeper discussions at FWPC. If you have questions about the report or would like additional information, please feel free to contact us directly.

Sara and Steve Tamplin

## Concerts in the Community

Get a head start on St. Patrick’s Day with Irish music by the **Blackthorn Trio**, Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

The Outreach Committee would very much like to have suggestions of what performers you might like to have as part of our concert series. Please let Kate Lewis Brown know if you have ideas.

## The Saints of Our Church

Jimmy Cloud...is one of the Saints of our church we have recently lost. When we take a walk through our cemetery and look at the names on the tombstones, the Saints that came before us, we recognize so many of the names. These saints were always ready to step up in ways to serve God and serve our Church. It is our duty and responsibility to always remember them.

“The Communion of Saints” - we pray these words when we recite the Apostles Creed.

Jimmy was born into our church and was a lifelong active member. He was a Deacon for many years, always ready to lend a helping hand to whatever cause needed him. He started helping at a very early age. At 16 he began driving the old church bus. He had no trouble learning to drive the bus since he was already operating and driving farm equipment. He traveled the old dirt roads in the area picking up folks for church services, picnics, and programs. That must have been some ride! Jimmy was drafted into the Army and served his country for 1½ yrs in Korea. Jimmy married Janice Thomas in our church with his old friend, Bill Zombro, at his side as best man. Jimmy and Janice had two sons, Robbie and Little Jimmy. Jimmy was a farmer, a man of the earth. He spent his life nourishing and working Gods earth. When God looked down and needed someone to care for the earth he called a farmer, like Jimmy Cloud.

Bettie Jane Porterfield  
Ron Hansen