From the Pastor . . .

Mark’s gospel account of the life and ministry of Jesus ends with a cliffhanger.

“So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”

Cliffhangers leave you wanting more - asking for more. Imagine reading Mark’s gospel account of Jesus’ earthly mission for the first time. You would come to the end and you might say… What? That’s how it ends? The women run away scared and they don’t tell anyone?

It’s easy to see why the women were seized with terror and amazement. But if we look at the full story provided to us in Mark’s gospel, it is easy to see this is not an expected response from the women.

The women are afraid in this moment but yet throughout the gospel’s account the women have not been afraid. They were bold even to the end. They were at the cross. They watched Jesus die. They were there when his body was laid in the tomb. Because the Sabbath was upon them they couldn’t give him the proper burial rites. When the Sabbath was over they left their home, early in the morning - possibly in the dark - to journey to the tomb. Their friend and teacher was dead and his body should be anointed and cared for, as was the custom.

They were not afraid of the tomb or the dead body; they were concerned about the stone that covered the tomb entrance. How could they move it? It was much too large for them to move on their own.

They arrived at the tomb only to find the stone moved and the body gone. Naturally they are alarmed - it didn’t help matters that they encountered this young boy - very much alive and sitting in the tomb. He offers them these words…

“Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”

At this they were seized by terror and amazement. Isn’t it interesting that these two words were used to describe their reaction to this unexpected message?

Terror is defined as intense, sharp, overmastering fear. Amazement is overwhelming surprise or astonishment. Terror … intense sharp fear and amazement … overwhelming surprise. Yes, these are excellent descriptors of the emotions that must be overtaking these women: intense sharp fear because they have been greeted with the unexpected, and amazement for the very same reason.

In this season of our lives we too are experiencing the unexpected. We expected to be in worship together. We expected to have a great Easter celebration filled with colorful candy-filled eggs and children laughing. We expected to gather for Holy Week and hear the story of Jesus’ passion which fills us with terror and amazement. We expected …
Yet here we are. We are experiencing something unimaginable. Just as the women at the tomb heard the message, “Go tell the disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you”, we too hear this message.

This possibility and promise reveals that this gospel story is filled with expectations while the unexpected still continues. Jesus goes ahead of us as he promised. The choice is ours to continue the story. Will we believe the good news that Jesus has been raised? Will we trust in the promise that he goes ahead of us … to meet us at our Galilee and there we will see him?

I have seen Jesus meeting people at Galilee. All I need to do is look at Facebook or the news and I see Jesus at Galilee. The Risen One is alive and well and moving in our communities to meet the needs of others. I see the Spirit of the Risen One living in medical personnel caring for the sick. I see the Spirit of the Risen One in grocery store clerks and delivery persons. I see the Spirit of the Risen One as neighbors care for neighbors. How will the Spirit of the Risen One meet you at your Galilee and empower you to help others in the time of terror and amazement that has seized our world?

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Marti

Which of these Easter hymns did Charles Wesley write?

a. Because He Lives  
b. Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies  
c. Lift High the Cross  
d. Sing with All the Saints in Glory

Mementos from Charles Wesley, the Hunger Church

Is there some object from our church that you would like to have as a remembrance? Please notify the office. We are compiling a list of requests and will know by the end of May whether your memento can be released. Why so long? The priority for receiving our possessions is:

- Donors of specific objects;
- Those buying items;
- The church receiving the remaining membership and other official records of our church; and then
- Members requesting items in the order in which requests were received.

Our building must be emptied of all furniture and other items by mid-June. We would like to see as many as possible in the Lord’s service or in the hands of those who will cherish them.

Your Executive Council

Church Financial Report
Leslie Jane Fahrney, Treasurer

Below are the total income and expenses for February 2020, compared to an average of the previous three years for the same period. For more information, please see Leslie Jane.

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<tr>
<th>Feb 2020</th>
<th>Average 2017-2019</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$32,301.49</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td>$27,476.96</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td>$4,824.53</td>
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<td><strong>Current Outstanding Line of Credit</strong></td>
<td>$17,672.34</td>
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Easter Surprise

I have a dear friend named Cindy whom I met at college. She lived on campus, but her home was only about 15 minutes from our school. Since my home was three hours away and I generally couldn’t make it home for the shorter holidays, Cindy often invited me to stay at her house. One of those times was Easter weekend.

Cindy’s home was in a rural area. Although she didn’t live on a farm, there were a number of farms in her neighborhood. Being from the Northern Virginia suburbs, I loved when we would see a farm animal. Apparently, I wasn’t very good at keeping my enthusiasm at bay because when we were getting ready for bed on Easter Eve, Cindy said to me, “In the morning, you’re going to hear some animals. Please do not wake me to tell me about them.” She was very emphatic about it. Begrudgingly, I agreed to her terms.

Very early the next morning, as Cindy predicted, I DID hear farm animals. It was amazing. There were cock-a-doodle-dooos, moos, baas, oinks, neighs, etc. It was like a symphony of living things! I tiptoed from my bed to the window and pulled back the curtain to take a look outside. I totally didn’t expect it, but there, staring at me eye-to-eye, was a cow!

After I got over the shock, I said to myself, “I’ve got to show this to Cindy.” But then, I remembered her very specific instructions — “do not wake me”. I weighed my options and decided that this cow was just too good not to share, so in my softest and gentlest voice, I said, “Cindy, I know you told me not to wake you, but …” When she looked over at me — probably to tell me to go back to bed — I pulled back the curtain.

Cindy took one look at that big ol’ cow face, yelped, and jumped out of bed. She raced outside, and I followed behind. Despite the fact that Cindy didn’t own any farm animals, her yard was FILLED with them. The animals were having a wonderful time — in fact, some of them were making breakfast out of her brother’s straw-filled archery target.

All our racket woke Cindy’s family, and after a phone call or two, it was determined that the gate of the neighboring farm had been left open the night before and the animals had gone exploring. With the help of their owner, we herded the animals back home. Cindy and I have been laughing about the incident ever since!

Of course, the two of us were not the first, nor will we be the last, to experience an Easter-morning surprise. Many will receive candy-filled baskets, find hidden eggs, or enjoy expected visits from friends and family members. However, I suspect no one will be quite as surprised on Easter as Mary Magdalene was when she realized that the stone had been rolled back from Jesus’s tomb, or later, when she saw in him in the garden.

“Thinking he was the gardener, she said, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned toward him and cried out, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means ‘Teacher’).” John 20:15-16 (NIV).

Happy Easter as you celebrate the joys of an Easter surprise.

Liz Rothrock

Picture courtesy of https://www.feminagirls.com/2009/05/19/the-cows-came-home/
Disaster Preparedness

My Toy Poodle Maggie and I are stranded by the coronavirus presently, as we all are. Maggie and I should have been moving this month into our beautiful little custom-designed cottage at the Westminster at Lake Ridge, but the Westminster is in lock-down until the virus abates – as we all are. Eventually the virus will abate; eventually we shall move, God willing. Meanwhile, we are renting the very home we sold in February, and in this God-sent down-time I, at least, am fully engaged in winnowing more finely the garnered store of decades. Maggie, still marvelling at a world restored by her cataract surgery last August, mostly just watches …

Among the items I had marked “To Move”, in last year’s great surge of Keep/Don’t Keep, is a small rolling cart containing our Disaster Preparedness kit. Does anybody else remember this program? It was adopted by the United Methodist Church in response to 11 September 2001, when hijacked planes flew into the Pentagon and the World Trade Center’s towers, and “what if?” was on every tongue. In retrospect, the program seems akin to bomb shelters and under-the-desk drills from the Cold War era. Crisis past, motivation passed, Disaster Preparedness kits gathered dust … At least a kit was a modest investment, compared to a bomb shelter, albeit more cumbersome than diving beneath a desk.

I was one of Charles Wesley UMC’s ‘coordinators’ for Disaster Preparedness. Together with Annette Pigott, I took the District training and brought it back, to inflict it upon the congregation during post-worship Fellowship, when you-all were more-or-less captive to coffee and cookies.

The United Methodist Church has long-since moved on, but habits die hard. Each equinox, I continued to swap out last season’s bottled water from my kit for fresh, sufficient to irrigate myself and incumbent dogs for a hypothetical three-day emergency – until this Spring, in the midst of pandemic virus and consequent hysteria, when bottled water became scarce. I contemplated my dusty wheeled cart. The Westminster at Lake Ridge states in its literature that it will care for its residents (two-legged and four-) in event of any catastrophe, of whatever magnitude. Videthe current lock-down. Maggie and I will be paying for that security. Still considering the time-capsule of our kit, deliberately I dismantled it, then dutifully washed my hands …

There’s a metaphor here, if I could but grasp it. What does it suggest to YOU?

Vicki Herrmann

A Note of Thanks

Just wanted to thank you all for your thoughtfulness in remembering me during my absence from CWUMC. The cards and emails have lifted my spirits, and I look at them frequently. I hope to be back in the pew soon where I can personally thank each of you. Your kindness and concern for me is greatly appreciated.

Karen Blue
Easter throughout the years
In this time of global crisis, let us not forget those in need. SHARE continues to serve those in our area needing assistance. Desperately needed items include, but are not limited to, toilet paper, protein (tuna/chicken/thick soups with meat/peanut butter), canned vegetables, and canned fruit. You may leave them in the outside donation shed (across from the playground) at McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road; Charles Wesley’s SHARE collection box; or contact Dale Thompson, 703-356-8224. Financial donations and grocery gift cards are also needed. For further information, see the SHARE website, or their March 21 on-line newsletter. (No expired food, clothes, and only items in small packages.)
Happy APRIL Birthday!

6th: Soon Young Carroll, Katelyn Luke, Jamie Paulk
16th: Bob Schneider
17th: Elaine Schneider
22nd: Rebecca King

We want to celebrate YOU by posting your birthday in our monthly newsletter. Please let the office know your date of birth so we can update our membership database. Not to worry - only the date will be posted, not the year. Thank you!

COVID-19 updates

Have you tried calling the office, and getting the voice mail? Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the office is closed till further notice. You may still leave a voice mail, as it is checked daily; email the church at charleswesleyumc@verizon.net; contact Leslie Jane at 571-235-8849; or contact Pastor Marti at 703-731-6922 or martiringenbach@vaumc.org.

United Methodist Women

The April meeting of the Missionettes has been cancelled due to COVID-19. May and June’s meetings will be determined at a later date. Stay safe, reach out to friends, and wash your hands.

Charles Wesley UMC History

Have any remembrances/stories/pictures/etc. of Charles Wesley UMC? We would love to have them. Send the office your contributions, and we will print them in a future newsletter. Or talk to Leslie Jane, and she will write up an article from your input.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our Easter Flowers this year. For those who paid for plants already, Elaine will be in touch with you about your refund.
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Please remember to let the office know of any meetings or events you wish to schedule/announce on the church calendar!

Thank you.
**Stay Informed at The Hunger Church!**

**Email:**
Sign up on our Listserv page at [TheHungerChurch.org/connect](http://TheHungerChurch.org/connect) to receive information regarding church events! It's easy and it's free.

**Podcasts & Publications:**
You can listen to past sermons, as well as most of our former music, at [TheHungerChurch.org/podcasts](http://TheHungerChurch.org/podcasts). Also on this site is the monthly Newsletter. We encourage you to share items especially meaningful to you with friends and family.

**Guest WiFi:**
FIOS-3LPZW-Guest
PW: CWUMC2017

**NOTICE:** All newsletters are emailed AND can found on our website at [www.TheHungerChurch.org](http://www.TheHungerChurch.org).

*If you wish to continue to receive a hard copy in the mail, you must let the church office know. Call 703-356-6336 or email us at charleswesleyumc@verizon.net.*

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**The Hunger Church**

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**Office hours:**
Cancelled till further notice

**Staff:**
Pastor: Marti Ringenbach
Administrative Assistant: Leslie Jane Fahrney
Organist: Mary Brown

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