

How Lovely on the Mountains are the Feet: Some Thoughts About Foot-Washing

Like some of you, I was rather “weirded” out when Michael first mentioned that our Maundy Thursday service would include foot-washing as well as communion. Although I practically grew up in church and have attended a lot of different types of worship experiences, I had never witnessed a foot-washing service, much less participated in one. The thought of washing someone else’s feet didn’t bother me nearly as much as someone else washing MY feet. I try not to be vain about my appearance, but I am a little self-conscious about my feet. They’re bony, I have long, skinny toes, and a bunion on my right foot gives it a misshapen look.

I know some of you had similar misgivings. You told me in advance that you wouldn’t be there—no way were you going to let a fellow church member touch your feet! Many others didn’t show up, so I assume I’m not the only one who’s self-conscious about her feet. I suggested to Michael that we offer a washing “alternative,” such as hand-washing. Secretly I hoped he’d abandon his plan, but no such luck.

So what did I do as Maundy Thursday approached? Did I put my vanity behind me and focus on the spiritual big picture? Well, not at first. Instead, I got my first pedicure. As I told the nail technician, “I know Jesus doesn’t care whether I have pretty toes, but I do.” And I have to confess that with my tootsies buffed and sporting pretty pink nail polish, I came to church that night feeling a little less anxious.

However, I think I could have saved myself the cost of the pedicure because the service ended up being so much more moving and meaningful than I expected. Yes, it was still a little uncomfortable to have Rydell wash my feet. It is, after all, a rather intimate act. But very quickly my attention shifted from my mental discomfort to this beautiful metaphor of servanthood that we were acting out.

Next we moved to the communion table and served the bread and the wine (or juice) to each other—again, the symbol of being a servant. As we did so, Rydell sang the hymn “The Old Rugged Cross” (which makes me cry whenever I hear it because my father sang it so often) and then the contemporary gospel song “Precious Jesus,” accompanied by David. Both songs perfectly fit the contemplative tone of that night.

Back in my seat after communion, I happened to glance over and saw something I’ll never forget: tiny Isaac Cravey carefully washing the feet of his dad Matt. I couldn’t help but think, “and a little child shall lead them.” (Isaiah 11:6)

Since that night I’ve done some more thinking about foot-washing. Despite my original reservations and anxiety, I’ve told Michael that I hope we do the foot-washing service again next year. Why my change of attitude?

- I experienced a sense of our common humanity. With all the impersonal electronic, non-face-to-face communication that we do these days, I think getting down on one’s knees in front of another human being and washing that person’s feet strips away the issues that come between us. We’re not white or black, gay or straight, rich or poor, old or young—we’re just one human being attending to the physical need of another human being.
- I experienced a sense of community. For one thing, all of us washing feet were uncomfortable together! But serving others also can foster intimacy—getting to know who that person really is. I personally believe that many people in our culture crave intimacy but look for it in all the wrong places. I’d like to think that College Park is a place where each of us can be our true selves, ugly feet and all, so that your washing my feet and my washing yours simply strengthens the bond between us.

- I experienced humility. I work in advertising, yet I’m still amazed how many companies try to get us to buy their products with the implied or explicit statement, “You deserve to treat yourself.” But maybe I need to think more about serving others. It’s harder to think “I’m all that” when I’m washing someone else’s feet. Ministry to others can be messy, uncomfortable, inconvenient, and require putting someone else’s needs ahead of your own. But I guess that’s what we are called to do as followers of Jesus.

I think I experienced some spiritual growth. I hate to admit it, but becoming more like Jesus usually seems to involve doing something that’s outside my comfort zone. As a former teacher, I know that children learn best by doing, but I suspect that’s true for me too. Washing someone’s feet drives home the idea of serving others in a way that reading about it never will.

So if we have foot-washing and communion next year on Maundy Thursday, I hope more of you will be there with me to experience this powerful symbol. My toes will be the ones with the pretty pink nail polish.

Cindy Dillon

Scrapbooking—Girl Scout Project

Lara Stocks is working on her Gold Award in Girl Scouting. For her project she is planning a scrapbooking workshop for children experiencing foster care on May 16. She is working with Foster Friends of NC, a local organization whose mission is to provide foster children with access to activities and opportunities that enrich their childhood experience. There are several ways you can help the project:

- Pray for these kids and the success of this project
- Donations of scrapbooking materials: Stickers, scraps or full pages of paper, pens, and adhesives. A box will be set up near the side entrance to the church for donations.
- If you are experienced at scrapbooking, sign up to help assist the kids at the workshop.
- Loan your scrapbooking tools for the kids to use at the workshop especially cutting systems, shape makers or idea books
- Help with setup on Friday night before the workshop
- Help with lunch

Sponsor a child or provide items off our wish list. If you want to sign up to help or are interested in the wish list, send an e-mail to pjstocks@triad.rr.com as soon as possible.

Looking Ahead

May 10	Youth Sunday
May 13	Business Meeting
May 16	Young Adults Sunday School Class Reunion
May 29	Forever 39 Club
June 20-23	Passport Kids Camp, Lynchburg, VA
June 21-26	Youth Passport Camp, Wingate NC
June 26	Forever 39 Club
July 11	Rustyn Chamberlain’s Wedding
July 31	Forever 39 Club
August 3-7	Summer Music Camp
August 28	Forever 39 Club

Thank You

Dear Congregation of College Park Church,
Thank you for your support of my ordination and recognition of my calling to God’s work. I also want to thank you for the beautiful stole and pastor’s book. I will be putting both to good use.

Many blessings to you,
Rev. Robert Townsend

Dear College Park,
Thank you so much for all your prayers, kind words of comfort and cards you sent to me following my husband’s death. It was a great blessing to me and my family to know that so many friends here at College Park helped to sustain us during this period of time.

Thank you for all your kindnesses.

Helen Morehead

Dining for Friends Party

You are invited to the biggest Dining for Friends party in Greensboro! The Community Shades Party will be held on Saturday, May 16, 6-9 PM at the Carriage House and Back Lawn of the Blandwood Mansion in downtown Greensboro. Enjoy tropical-inspired cuisine, wine, beer and soft drinks while visiting with old and new friends, and listening to live jazz music. A minimum suggested donation of \$20 includes the big finale at the Coliseum with a dessert buffet, live 80s music and dancing. 100% of your donations to this party benefits Dining for Friends for Triad Health Project, whose mission is to provide practical and emotional support to individuals infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Special appearance by the College Park pink flamingos! This party is so bright, you’ve got to wear shades. For more info, go to www.diningforfriends.com or see Tom Hardin or Mark File.

College Park Church—Facebook

College Park Church has a new Facebook page! So all of you Facebook addicts can easily get updates on church happenings and news by becoming our fan. Simply do a search on Facebook to find the page. It’s a great way to connect with other College Park groupies on Facebook.

Hey! What’s for dinner? CPC Wednesday Night Fellowship

5/6/2009
Crispy Fish
Hickory Slow, Broccoli
Raspberry Shortbread Bars

5/13/2009
Quiche
Muffins/salad
Peanut Butter Cake

5/20/2009
Stuffed Peppers
Salad
Cherry Fudge Cake

5/27/2009
Chicken w/Tarragon & Leeks
Butterscotch Blondies

Spring Church-wide Picnic
 Sunday, May 3
 2—6 PM
 Shelter #1

Join us this Sunday at Triad Park,
 9652 West Market Street for our
 spring church picnic.

Bring your favorite covered dish.

Utensils, drinks and ice will
 be provided.

Directions:

Aycock to Spring Garden,
 turn right at .2 miles;

Spring Garden to Market Street, turn
 left at 3 miles;

Market Street until you get to
 park at 10 miles.

Save the Date!

**Sunday School Class Reunion for
 the "Young Adults" of the 80s**

If you were a young adult in the Sunday School class taught by Libby during the
 Jamison years of 1981-1992 - this is for you!

May 16th, 4:30 p.m.,
 Potluck at Rusty's Retreat
 (Sally White's farm)

More details to come. Please pass on the word to anyone you know from the
 "old days". Or contact Tammy Stocks with email addresses or locations.
 (rstocks@thefellowship.info).



Every Member a Minister
 Lin Bunce, Associate Minister
 Phyllis Calvert, Treasurer
 Cindy Dillon, Minister of Small Groups
 Rydell Harrison, Minister of Music & Worship
 Kathy Kirstner, Deacon Chair
 Georgia Murray, Office & Media Manager
 Helen Morehead, Sexton
 Neil Shepherd, Horton Turns 50
 David Soyars, Organist
 Ralph & Tammy Stocks, Missionaries
 Michael S. Usey, Pastor
 Sally White, Handbell Director

www.collegeparkchurch.com cpbcgbo@bellsouth.net
 Progressive - Diverse - Ecumenical

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Alliance of Baptists - American Baptist Churches - Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

April Peanut Butter Donations = 52 Pounds
 Total Peanut Butter Donations for Year = 201 pounds
 Total Other Food Donations for Year = 375 Pounds

Non-Profit Organization
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Welcome!
Lin Bunce
**Our New Associate
 Minister**

Lin's Personal Statement:

A passionate educator and minister. I am called to engage ministry within the congregational, academic and community spheres, and am committed to doing ministry that fosters individual wholeness and community growth.

She received a Bachelor of Science from Campbell University in 2006 and a Master of Divinity from Wake Forest University in 2009. She also played soccer at Campbell.

Lin was a Research Assistant for Religion and Public Engagement Program at WFU as well as President of Kaleidoscope. She was also Kid's Café Coordinator at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem.

Other related experience consist of mission trips to Ukraine in July 2005 and to Belize in April 2006.

Lin will begin on June 1st and her email address is :
 lbunce@gmail.com.