**View from the Pew**

By Bruce Lindquist

**Three from our formative years now gone** -- In the span of a month, we lost three very long-time members of our church. Our thoughts and prayers now go out to the family and friends of Faith Gose. She passed away peacefully on June 25, at the age of 86, at the Minnesota Masonic Home, Bloomington. Services have been held.

Faith was a Minnesota PK (preacher’s kid), her father being a Lutheran pastor. She was born in Benson, grew up in Buffalo and St. Cloud, and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. She taught Kindergarten in Grand Rapids and New Hope, and also in San Diego, Calif. Together with her husband Ed, they raised their family just a few blocks away on Alabama Avenue. Faith taught many in our SOC neighborhood how to play the piano, and her beautiful garden was a showplace, a relative said. Later, with Ed, she was able to put her green thumb to work on the scenic North Shore, running a small nursery in Beaver Bay during their retirement years.

She is survived by children Lisa and Stephen, and their families, and three brothers – two of whom are pastors – and both living in Canada. A private interment at Beaver Bay will be held at a later date.

Jack Reay died exactly a month prior to Faith’s passing, followed shortly by the death of Robert Tandberg. A service for Robert’s family and friends is still to come, scheduled for Saturday, July 21.

**‘Down to the River’ deeply spiritual, historic** -- At the combined three-church service at SLP’s Wolfe Park Veterans’ Amphitheatre on Sunday, June 24, when a “pop up” choral group was formed with the joining of the SOC, Wooddale and Prince of Peace choirs, there was something of a pop culture feeling to the music as well. A few of us in the group couldn’t put our fingers on it at the time, but this particular piece of music has some history and fame attached to it. Not being able to shake the chords of “Down to the River to Pray,” which seemed to play in my head over and over like a skipping record in need of a fresh needle, I finally succumbed and Googled it.

One rendition of “Down to the River” is a catchy showtune, not at the noteworthy level of say, “We’ve Got Trouble,” from the “Music Man,” or “Oh What a Beautiful Morning,” from “Oklahoma!” but noteworthy nevertheless. Alison Krauss elevated the song in “Brother, Where Art Thou?” and having George Clooney, John Goodman, Holly Hunter and Charles Durning play lead roles in the (SLP natives) Coen Brothers movie didn’t hurt its popularity, either.

Apparently, there are many versions and suspected origins of the deeply spiritual song, including it being sung and played by native Native Americans, Southern slaves, and 19th century gospel groups, all telling of ways to keep the faith in times of darkness. Going back almost 200 years in one form or another, it appeared in George H. Allan’s “Slave Song Book of 1867,” then, in 2000, it was popularized by Krauss in the movie.

I sure hope that wonderful American classic, derived from centuries of pain to produce positive emotion, was as much fun to listen to as it was for the choir to sing. -o-