



1. Chapter 3 begins with the calling of a new rector to The Falls Church. When John Yates became rector, he was slow to bring change but ushered in a re-acknowledgment of the Gospel in unabashed ways – bringing in the likes of John Stott and John Guest to preach the Gospel. We are similarly called to a re-acknowledgment of the Gospel in our life as a parish right now. What does it mean to you to live a Gospel-centered life?
2. It is important that we know the Gospel – and define the Gospel. What is your two-sentence definition of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Who are some people with whom you would like to share the Gospel?
3. Re-read pages 24-25 (chapter 3). We are introduced to (and reminded of) the beginning reasons why so many have left The Episcopal Church. Namely – disobedience of the authority of Scripture, straying from the traditional teachings of marriage sexuality, and the unchecked disregard of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Simmons claims it was a time of testing what faith meant (p.25). How do faith and the Gospel relate? How do we keep people together in times of challenge?
4. In Chapter 4, we read that John Yates preached a powerful sermon on Jesus' visit with Martha and Mary – the same passage Fr. Jeremy preached on our first Sunday at Haut Gap. "Just one thing is enough" was the message that day. What is the "one thing" that is enough for us today?
5. God's mission was beginning to awaken The Falls Church. New people were joining, and the need to grow together in unity was clear. We have new people joining, a growing children's ministry, and we are united. What is God's mission for you in the life of St. John's Parish Church? How is the Holy Spirit playing a role in our life together? In our growth? In our participation in building God's Kingdom?