



*Prayer for Foundation
Day
December 1, 2018*

Reader 1: Although only Betsey Wells and Teresa Carrico arrived on December 1, 1812 to begin the foundation of what became the SCN community in frontier Kentucky, they were soon joined by Catherine Spalding on January 21, 1813, and Mary (Polly) Beaven, Harriet Gardiner, and Sarah (Sally) Sims in April and May of that year (*Pioneer Spirit*, 22-23, 33). Together these six women sought to build community and meet the needs of their time.

Leader: Let us spend a few moments reflecting on what the thoughts and feelings of these six women might have been as they gathered together. What were your thoughts and feelings during your first year of life in community as you gathered together with other SCNs?

(Quiet Reflection)

(Sharing) - optional

Leader: Let us pray:

ALL: God of new beginnings, we remember your movement within us
during our first days in the community
and we thank those who had the courage to follow your call
to begin the community of which we are members and Associates.
May the love of Christ bind us to one another
and impel us to serve those most in need.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
who also gathered together with others to address the needs of his time.

AMEN

Reader 2: Though not the first, nor the oldest, Catherine at age 19 was chosen by the group of six as the first “Mother” of the small community and the even younger Harriet Gardiner was chosen as her assistant on June 2, 1813. Betsey Wells was chosen as Procuratrix to administer the provisions. Whether hurt by that fact or for other reasons, Betsey Wells left the community on December 1 of 1814. She was preceded in her leave-taking by Sarah Sims in October of 1813. Between Catherine’s election and Betsey’s leave-taking, however, five new members joined the small community (Pioneer Spirit, 34, 36).

Leader: Let us spend a few moments reflecting on how, in our own day, the SCN community has experienced moments of celebration, moments of loss, and moments of growth. What were your thoughts and feelings during such moments of celebration, loss, and growth?

(Quiet Reflection)

(Sharing) - optional

Leader: Let us pray:

ALL: God of our common journey together,
we remember with fondness our moments of celebration,
and perhaps with lingering sorrow our moments of loss.
We know that our growth, whether in numbers or in quality of membership,
has you as its source and we give you thanks for the ways we have grown.
The celebrations, losses and growth have all served as opportunities
to strengthen our dependence on you and our bonds with one another.
May our celebrations lift us up, our losses encourage us to reach out
and our opportunities for growth always find us willing to be stretched.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, who celebrated with his companions,
grieved at the loss of even one, and preached
about the power of the leaven and the mustard seed.

AMEN

Closing Song: “Everyday Day” by Bernadette Farrel (available on YouTube)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_3MSBJlq5o (or one of your choosing)

Response: ...Everyday God
...O Jesus
...O Spirit
...Come be with us.