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Brown, Matthew, 1776-1853

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9-17-2021

### Matthew Brown Fellowship Brochure

Matthew Brown

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The recruitment process begins with interested students submitting detailed applications. Church members and staff work together as readers to narrow the list of applicants for interviews. Once interviews are conducted, selected students are offered a position in the Fellowship. The students are paired with local agencies at the end of the spring semester so they can prepare to begin their community service experiences when they return to campus in the fall. The Fellowship has partnered with local non-profits and social service agencies in the Washington community, including: Citizens Library, The City Mission, Washington County Law Library, Habitat for Humanity, Turning Point, Washington Hospital Teen Outreach, The Washington Hospital, The Donnell House, Washington County Gay Straight Alliance, and the Washington Area Humane Society. Participating agencies vary from year to year depending on student preferences and agency needs.

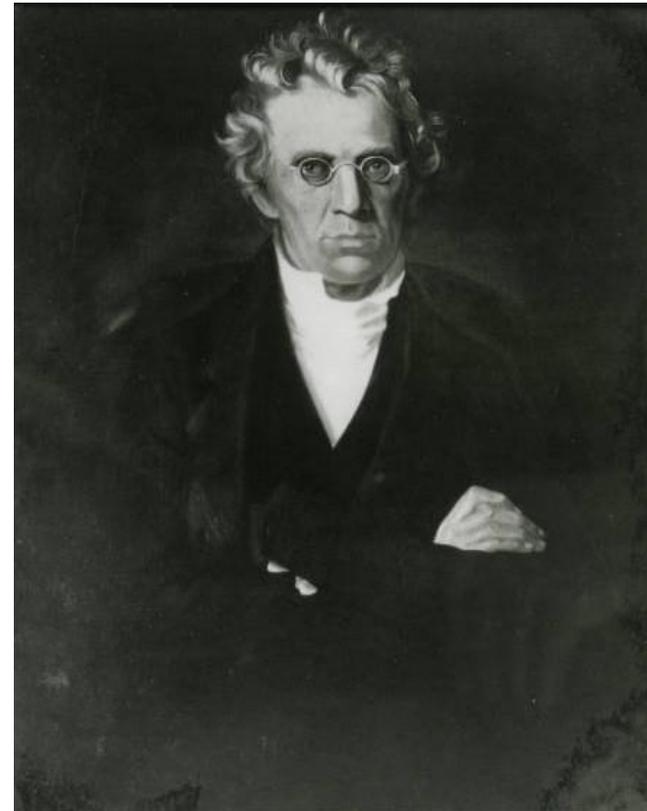
The Fellowship began in the 2002-2003 academic year, with a grant provided by the Synod of the Trinity and matched by FPC 1793. After the trial year's success with 6 Fellows, the program funding was picked up by the Francis Asbury Palmer Fund, a charitable organization established in 1901 for the advancement and support of home missions and educational ministries. This larger annual grant allows the Fellowship to continue and grow, with about a dozen Fellows involved each year.

*This brochure is dedicated to the memory of  
Dr. R. Lloyd Mitchell, Professor Emeritus  
Washington & Jefferson College*

## The Matthew Brown Fellowship

### Life, Leadership, Learning

Linking First Presbyterian Church 1793,  
Washington & Jefferson College,  
and the Washington community at large



Rev. Matthew Brown  
1776-1853

Reverend Matthew Brown, a graduate of Dickinson College, was installed in 1805 as the first Minister of First Presbyterian Church and in 1806 as the first president of Washington College. The College Trustees thought these two positions should be permanently combined, but Reverend Brown convinced them, later, that they needed to be separated. A leader of “great earnestness, piety, and intellect,” Reverend Brown got both institutions off to a strong start. Later, in 1822, he became President of Jefferson College in Canonsburg, with hope that the two colleges would be combined. This did not happen until 1865, forming Washington & Jefferson College as we know it now. On the front cover is a copy of a portrait of Matthew Brown that hangs in our Narthex with portraits of all of the other ministers who have served this congregation. Further information concerning Rev. Matthew Brown may be found in the book *Banners in the Wilderness: Early Years of Washington and Jefferson College* by Helen Turnbull Waite Coleman.

The Matthew Brown Fellowship was established in the 2002-2003 academic year with the intention of enhancing this church’s relationship with the students of W&J. All through the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this church was, essentially, the “College Church.” Sunday church attendance was expected of the students and unless they chose to go elsewhere, this was the preferred church and the place students would be seen on Sunday mornings. Until recently, the annual College Baccalaureate service, held here, commemorated the common roots of the college and this church. As time went on in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, however, the two neighboring institutions had less and less to do with each other. It was in order to address this situation that the Matthew Brown Fellowship program was established.

The Matthew Brown Fellowship has two purposes: to increase this church’s involvement with its oldest friend, the College, and to extend its ministry, through the work of the Matthew Brown Fellows, to meet the growing needs throughout the greater Washington Community. This college-aged ministry program is designed to help promote leadership skills, independence, and spiritual growth in the Fellows.

Being selected as a Matthew Brown Fellow is a very high honor which brings with it important responsibilities. First, each fellow is paired with a local community service organization and provides manpower that the organization otherwise couldn’t afford (work which is often geared towards post-graduate opportunities), for which he or she receives a financial stipend. Second, all fellows attend a monthly meeting where they are served a catered meal while they reflect on volunteering, plan mission projects, and form a bond of fellowship through interactive games or roundtable discussions. Third, the fellows are held to a high ethical standard at these agencies as well as on campus and in the community.

