

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

JUNE 2017



JUNE 4

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Rev. Eric Anderson
Lay Reader: John Tarver

JUNE 11

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Rev. Canon Bill Fasel
Lay Reader: Kate French

JUNE 18

MORNING PRAYER

Lay Reader: Sam French

JUNE 25

**POT LUCK & BISHOP'S
COMMITTEE MEETING**

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Rev. Eric Anderson
Lay Reader: Don Kiefer

ALTAR GUILD

Any Available Member

SERVICES

9:00 A.M. - Sunday School
10:00 - Worship Services

A Word from the Bishop's Warden

As we enter into the month of June we leave the Easter season behind. The focus of our worship lectionary is on the presence of the Holy Spirit and could be called 'where do you go to find God?'. Jesus left the disciples to be with the Father but sent the Holy Spirit which we celebrate on Pentecost, the first Sunday in June. The disciples could no longer simply ask Jesus a question, look for support, love, healing or anything else as they had done when Jesus was with them. Much like us who "have not seen".

Then second Sunday we celebrate the mystery of the Trinity. The fact that Jesus sent the Spirit to be our advocate. To be with us in time of need or in time of celebration and joy the Spirit is there to guide us if necessary, to comfort us or to celebrate with us if that is the case.

We all have places where we feel closer to God. It is usually a quiet place maybe a city park, the woods the mountains but different for everyone. Let us intentionally search out those places this month and find God waiting there for us.

It seems our prayer list get longer every Sunday. Remember all on it in our time with God.

Wishing God's Peace for All,

John

CHURCH INFORMATION

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 453 Clinton, MO 64735

GPS Address: 181 East Division Clinton, MO 64735

Priest in Charge: The Rev. Bill Fasel; fbillnerm@hotmail.com, 816-803-4010

Bishop Martin Field, Diocese of West Missouri

Bishop's Warden: John Tarver tarverjohn1@gmail.com

St. Paul's Website: <http://stpaulsepiscopal.diowestmo.org/>

NERM WEBSITE

<http://www.nermwestmo.org/home0.aspx>

Gifts of the Pentecost

Rev. Eric A. Anderson

June 2017

We are beginning now the longest season of the Church year, The Season of Pentecost.

Over 2000 years ago the first Pentecost happened. To appreciate the gifts of Pentecost and understand the power of the Spirit of Truth, one hopefully brings forward with them into this season their Christian understanding, knowledge, experiences, faith and hope from the Advent of Christ, the Incarnation Jesus, the Epiphany of Christ, The journey of Lent into Holy Week ending with Jesus's death upon the cross, and The Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ. Now we like, the Apostle's and first disciples who followed Jesus, are being sent out into the World in peace to love and serve the Christ in all others through our words and actions with gladness and singleness of heart.

After the religious leaders had manipulated Pontius Pilate to have Jesus killed in humiliation they watched him die. For them and many in the world that was the end of the story. In their mind anyone who believes or has faith in Christ is a fool, but not just a fool, but an uneducated ignorant one at that. The same darkness that distorts the human spirit that Jesus told us about during his time here on Earth is the same darkness and fears that is still being spread and growing. These are the ones to whom we are being sent into the world to proclaim the Good News of Christ Jesus. They do not only live across the oceans, but the live on the other side of our backyard fences, stand with us at our banks and grocery stores and sit next to us in the pew. These are the ones we are called to see the Christ in and to be patient with, forgive, and give Christ grace too,

Christ's friends witnessed his death upon the cross, and in their own fear, tiredness, and grief, questioned for a moment, Jesus. They knew the truth of his words, prayers, and actions, but the cloudiness and separation from Him in His death

caused doubt. However, we as true followers of Christ living the Christian life know without doubt Christ overcame death and lives. After the resurrection and before the ascension, Christ spent time in His resurrection form with those who believed and love Him and followed him while he was alive here on Earth. Jesus opened their minds and spirits to true understanding of God's Holy Word and installed in them the courage to live in the world and proclaim through their words and action the Good News of Salvation.

While Jesus' was here with his Apostles', disciples, and followers, He was able to protect, defend, and teach them, but as the time came for Jesus to ascend to Heaven to become one with the Father, Jesus shared with His own that He would not leave them nor us as orphans, alone to do and complete our work. He would give to all those who obey his commandments and love Him another Advocate, Counselor, and Comforter, whom we know as the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells them that the Father will give you a gift; the first gift in a series of gifts is the Holy Spirit.

According to Scripture and Tradition there was a little time between Christ's Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit. In this in-between time the disciples are separated from Christ and have yet to receive the Holy Spirit. Like many of us who find ourselves in this in-between time they find themselves in fear and living behind locked doors or perhaps a metaphor for locking their own spirit up inside themselves, so they were able to feel or hear God's nearness. On the Day of Pentecost, a spiritual flame lit upon the Disciples heads and they went out and began to speak and act in the name of Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit remained with them and still does as *She* remains with us now and forever.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are like an individual snow flake in a snow storm. One cannot say that one snowflake does not belong to the snow storm or then how can any of the snowflakes belong? Each individual is unique and created

in God's own perfection image. Without each individual gift received from the Holy Spirit the body is incomplete and it will not function properly or wholly. The church in Corinth was an example of a church community that did not understand the uniqueness of each gift the Holy Spirit gave to each individual member of the followers of Christ as Risen Lord and Savior.

The Apostle Paul wrote two letters to the church of Corinth (these letters the Church placed in the official canons of Holy Scripture). Paul writes in 1 Cor. 7:7 "Each person has their gift from God". Paul goes on to say, I wish that all people were like I am. But each individual has their own gifts from God. One has this gift and another has that gift. In 2 Cor. 8:12 Paul goes on to write, "For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what the individual does not have. In other words, we Christians accept the spiritual gift from the Holy Spirit in others, not to judge another person spiritual gift as inferior as or less than our own. To this way of thinking Paul wrote about in 1 Cor. 14:37 "Did the Word of God originate with you? Or are you the only person it has reached? If anybody think they are a prophet or spiritually gifted let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's Commandment". Paul is helping the church in Corinth realize that our place of power, prestige, or position in our community and world does not make us greater in authority, but greater in humility to serve the needs of others; To put yourself last so others can go first.



One way of serving in humility is to have discerned your own spiritual gifts and to discern with others their spiritual gifts (if they are unaware of them or unable to name them). A spiritual gift differs from an emotional, intellectual, physical, gift. A spiritual gift is a gift of love of heart, mind, and spirit to God and loving others as yourself, it is compassionate strength in action both word and voice. It is the last article in our Baptismal Covenant, where we pledge our oath to God to "Strive for peace and justice among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being!" Another way to understand this oath is to realize that the weakest link in a chain is itself the entire strength of a chain or the community. We don't criticize or judge a weaker link in a chain, or a different individual in our community, we work together inclusively to be one in the Spirit and one in the Lord.

I will end this Pastoral newsletter with a verse from Bach's song *Ode to Joy*. "God is giving and forgiving". Since we are created in the image of God and live into Christ's teaching, and guided by the Holy Spirit into the world we are to be likewise. And may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. "And the people said, "Amen!"

Enjoy
the lazy, hazy days of
S-U-M-M-E-R!!!

MID-YEAR CONVENTION

Don Kiefer and Mark Gladfelter will be attending the Mid-Year Diocesan Convention on Saturday, June 3 in order to finish the work of last fall's convention that was not completed. The Diocesan Budget is the topic for the days work.

DEANERY MEETING

Mark Gladfelter will attend the Central Deanery Meeting at St. Mary Magdalene in Belton, Saturday, June 17.

CARE NOTES

Rick Miller had his gall bladder removed on Tuesday, May 23. His recovery is going very well and he thanks everyone for their prayers and support!

Prayer go out to Jim Crossley, Barbara's son, for his cardiac ablation on June 2.

BIRTHDAYS

11-Shelby Mehan
17-Suny Johnson
22-Kate French
27-Evan Nelson

ANNIVERSARIES

17-Steve and Bess Brantner
20-Larry and Ruth Lewis

KATLYN GLADFELTER GRADUATES!

We all congratulate Katlyn on her recent graduation from Clinton High School. She is applying for acceptance into the local LPN program. She has been working this past year at Golden Valley Memorial. Church members celebrated on Sunday, May 28 with a cake and presentation of a personalized study Bible.



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