

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NEWS

SUMMR 2011

Like Wind, Like Fire

“When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.” Acts 2:1-4

It might seem odd to modern Christians that a feast we celebrate in the Church is already named in the New Testament – well before the church was established. As you might guess, Pentecost is deeply rooted in Jewish tradition. Pentecost is the name Hellenistic Jews gave the ancient feast of Shavuot, which occurs 50 days after Passover. On Passover, the Jewish people remember that they were freed from their enslavement to Pharaoh; on Shavuot they remember that they were given the Torah and became a nation committed to serving God. In the Christian tradition at Easter, we remember Christ resurrected; on Pentecost, 50 days later, we remember that the Holy Spirit came down upon us.

It was during the feast of Shavuot that Peter and the disciples were gathered in an upper room. The Pentecost event was the fulfillment of a promise which Jesus gave concerning the return of the Holy Spirit. And it was like a wind, a wildfire. Pentecost emphasizes that the church is understood as the body of Christ which is drawn together and given life by the Holy Spirit.

The season after Pentecost begins on the Monday following Pentecost, and continues through most of the summer and autumn. It may include as many as twenty-eight Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. This includes Trinity Sunday which is the First Sunday after Pentecost. The Book of Common Prayer and the Revised Common Lectionary provide proper collects and readings for the Sundays of the season. These “propers” are numbered and designated for use on the Sundays which are closest to specific days in the monthly calendar.

This season is also understood by some as “ordinary time,” a period of the church year not dedicated to a particular season or observance. Rather than meaning “common” or “mundane,” this term comes from the word “ordinal,” which simply means counted time (First Sunday after Pentecost, and so forth). Counted time after Pentecost always begins with Trinity Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost) and ends with Christ the King Sunday (last Sunday before the beginning of Advent).

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THIS NEWSLETTER
IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
POWELLEPISCOPAL.COM

The Festival of Homiletics

—Meg Nickles

It wasn't at all what I expected. There were no roundtable discussions, no workshops, no question and answer sessions. No handouts, resource lists or homework. Each day was a regular routine of worship, sermons and lectures, and I couldn't imagine how five days of sitting in church and listening to speakers was going to help me become a better preacher.

But it did.

The five of us – Diana Anderson, Charlotte Patrick, Carra Wetzel, Ron Lytle and I – were all enveloped in grace and beauty, lovely music, careful liturgies and spectacular

preaching each day during the Festival in Minneapolis. Sessions were held in four historic churches in the downtown area, where local congregations welcomed us with Biblical hospitality. We walked in the sunshine to our sessions and to eat at the manifold restaurants in the area. And we sat and listened and became not just better preachers, but better people. A more faithful people.

Thank you to St. John's for supporting us financially; thanks to the Commission on Ministry for their generous grants. We hope to ride the peak of enthusiasm and continue in our formation with regular meetings for study and evaluation.

Walt Seeley is scheduled to have open-heart surgery in Billings on June 15. Our prayers are with him.

Congratulations to Jane Woods! Her batik artwork titled "Heart Mountain," was selected for inclusion in the 2011 Annual Governor's Capitol Art Exhibition, on display at the Wyoming State Museum through June 26.

Congratulations to Everett Koelling, son of Deb and Rob Koelling, who graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Wyoming, with a degree in petroleum engineering.

The Thrift Shop has started a new recycling process. The volunteers are now recycling clothing, shoes, bedding, etc.

in clear plastic bags. Working in conjunction with Christ Church's recycling program, donations are picked up and taken to a storage facility for baling and transporting. Many thanks to Sherring Burke who has faithfully taken our boxes of donations to Billings for many years!!!

The ESL Program is now on summer break until Tues., Sept. 13. Jo DeWitt, Deb Chidsey, Claudia Hassler and Diana Anderson have worked with 4 – 5 students on Tuesday mornings. Gretchen Beerline, Anna Hardy, Sue Woods and Jan Lenhard have had 4-5 students on Tuesday evenings. Childcare on Tuesday evenings is provided by Jane Woods. The Tuesday Powell Tribunes, which Carra Wetzel

has provided, have been of interest and have been a good learning tool for students.

Carol Bendick has graciously offered to mow the lawn this summer so no need for anyone to sign up to mow. Kim Dillivan is her backup if need be. Pete Chidsey continues to watch over the entire operation as well.

Powell Valley Loaves and Fishes contributions are always needed and appreciated. There is a basket for Loaves and Fishes contributions in the Narthex for items that will be delivered to the Annex.

The Rev. Megan Nickles (754-4218) is available at any time. Please call to make an appointment or for any emergency.

Events to Remember:

Altar Guild:

June: Diana Anderson and Dolores Woods 1
July: Dolores Woods and Jane Woods 2
August: Margaret Clabaugh and Carol Bendick 6

Vestry Meeting: Last Sunday of each month 10

Powell Valley Care Center Service: 13

Sunday, July 3, 2:30 pm 16

Thrift Shop Cleaning Days: 24

Monday, June 27, 1pm 25

Monday, July 25, 1pm

Monday, August 29, 1pm

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

15 Joel Galligan

18 Rob Koelling

19 Robert Rumbolz

21 Carol McCauley

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

12 Ron & Katy Lytle

13 Bill & Claudia Hassler

14 Rusty & Laurel McKeen

20 Kim & Mary Dillivan

21 Walter & Carol McCauley

24 Scott & Justine Larsen

28 Walt & Alma Seeley

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Abigail Urbach

Martin Garhart

Riley McKeen

Steve Nickles

Chip Greathouse

Sherring Burke

Dolores Woods

Nicholas Urbach

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

9 Hunter & Charlotte Patrick

30 Rob & Deb Koelling

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Laurel McKeen

Nate Urbach

8 Lisa Gwin

8 Rowene Weems

12 Bill Hassler

15 Deb Chidsey

19 Mary Dillivan

19 Hunter Patrick

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

1 Donna & Norm Meidinger

3 Hidee & Nate Urbach

19 Steve & Meg Nickles

Please contact Megan Nickles if you are unavailable for certain services.

*A note for the lectors:

Two lectors have been assigned for each Sunday, and the readings should be divided as follows:

Morning Prayer: Lector 1 reads the first lesson

Lector 2 reads the second and third lesson

Holy Eucharist: Lector 1 reads the first lesson and the Psalm

Lector 2 reads the second lesson

The appropriate selection has been given for each Sunday (Proper 4, Proper 5, etc.), and we are currently in lectionary Year C of the Revised Common Lectionary. The complete readings are printed in the lectionary book at the lectern. The readings are also available on-line at www.prismnet.com/~kellywp/ or you may Google Revised Common Lectionary and select the appropriate date.

Note for Lectors

St. John's is using the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) available on-line at <http://www.io.com/~kellywp/>. Other sites with the RCL can be reached through Google or any other search engine, but this is the easiest site to navigate – just be sure to click the "RCL" link for the day, not the "BCP" which is the Book of Common Prayer Lectionary. The complete readings are also printed in the Lectionary book at the lectern. These pages may be photocopied, if you wish to take them home for practice.

If there is a choice between two Hebrew Bible lessons (Old Testament), we will be using the first choice, which offers a

loosely chronological narrative of stories of The Great Family. If the preacher decides to use other readings, you will be notified. Sometime during the week before you read, you will get an email from Diana Anderson or Megan Nickles with a link to your reading – this is just to be sure we are all on the same page. If you want to understand the context of your reading, there are many excellent websites that provide notes and background for each lection. Go to <http://textweek.com/> for quick access to these sites.

Complete notes for Lectors can be found at powellepiscopal.com.