

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Branch Happenings

May 13, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is "God Amazes" - Pentecost

A
Moment or state
And
Zing
Everything and everyone
Sparkles in His glow

God amazes – When were you ever amazed by God? Does it happen often? Keep a journal for one month and track those moments. Consider sharing them with someone.

Random thoughts about Pentecost – Maybe one will grab or amaze you.

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. Look up the following scriptures and see what they say.

SCRIPTURES

- Acts 2:1-21: Luke's narrative of the Day of Pentecost.
- Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
- 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13: Paul writes to the Corinthians about spiritual gifts for the common good.
- John 7:37-39: Jesus cries out about the coming of the Spirit that would flow out of believers' hearts.

-SCRIPTURE

- The Hebrews lived in a semiarid part of the world and were always concerned that they be near a source of water. Aridity for the spirit was also important. Jesus promises their thirst will be quenched.

- From Advent to Ascension centers around the life of Christ. The second half starting with Pentecost centers around the Church. - Focusing on the life of the believer.

-Pentecost is a Greek word meaning 50. The Jewish Pentecost arrives 50 days after Passover. The Christian Pentecost comes 50 days after the resurrection. Jewish Pentecost was a harvest festival in which the first fruits were gathered. (First fruits of the field and first fruits of Christian revelation)

- Tower of Babel reversed. At Babel humankind became fragmented as evidenced by the confusion of language. At Pentecost the believers spoke different languages but were united by the spirit.

- Pentecost sermon outline: Pentecost Power, Pentecost Presence, Pentecost Peace, Pentecost Purpose, Pentecost Prophecy.

QUOTES

- Some modern philosophers say, Deus Absconditus the God who hides, the God who absconds. Perhaps the problem is not that God has removed from us but that we have removed ourselves from God.

-Christianity is a fancy way of saying, "You don't get it, it gets you" Wilimon

- The world is still tongue tied. Dr. Frank Hegedus
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-Our worlds are more full of babble than Bible

-The H.S. not only the way God speaks to us but also the way that we are enabled to speak to God

-Speak to us that we may speak to you. Wilimon

ILLUSTRATIONS

-We live in a time obsessed with energy: atomic, hydro, geothermal, nuclear, hydroelectric, solar. It is said that cow pies all over the world would produce millions of metric tons of methane gas, but research appears to be a "mooot" point; to date, no efficient method of passing gas from cows to our homes and automobiles appears to be in the offing. Wind energy may be able to supply about 20 percent of the nation's electricity. The church is also a wind farm, powered by the Spirit which blew in on that first Pentecost "like the rush of a violent wind" (Acts 2:2). *Homiletics*

-Preaching God's word is an awesome responsibility. If it were our burden alone, it would indeed be a burden too great to bear. But the Pentecost promise is that we preachers do not work alone. The H.S. speaks to us and through us.

- For the Christian, Pentecost marks the end of one journey and the beginning of another. A road trip is transformation, not travelogue. The road will change you. Obstacles, adventures, vistas, encounters will occasion scars and brokenness, and summon insight and courage. Your discipleship becomes fully realized by the variables of the road itself and by your mission to carry and proclaim the good news into all circumstances. You will have to live "outside the box," *Suzanne Guthrie*

-Sometimes our expectations get in the way of the Spirit. The prophet Elijah, in the Old Testament, was expecting the Spirit to be loud, like thunder. Instead, the Spirit came to him as a whisper of God's love and care. Sometimes we expect something to happen, and then it doesn't, and we are disappointed. It is good then to remember an old spiritual saying, "When God closes a door, he opens a window."

HUMOR (true but funny) Celtic Christians chose the wild goose as a symbol representing the Holy Spirit. A wild goose is one noisy, bothersome bird. I like this image of the Holy Spirit as a wild goose because it jars us out of our complacency.

PRAYER PHRASES

- Blow upon us Holy Spirit. Help us to hear, amid all the conflicting voices that speak to us, the risen Christ. Help us to speak, amid all the difficulty of finding the right words, to the God who has so graciously in Christ spoken to us. Speak to us, that we might speak to you. *Wilimon*

-Come, Holy Spirit, come and make all things new. Receive these offerings of our lives and labor, and use them to spread the Good News of the abundant life in Jesus Christ throughout the earth, to the glory of your name. Amen.

-May God take our lips and speak through them; take our minds and think through them; take our hearts and set them on fire.

OLD PENTECOST NUGGETS: (From year b and c)

-Nothing but fire kindles fire.

- If you want to set someone on fire, you have to "buurn" a little bit yourself.

- illustration: Orchestra playing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony everyone working towards same end. No in fighting, To glory of God. No discord, one purpose, following the leader. Inspired.

- The birthday of the church.
- With God, adoption is everything. Our "natural" birth is redeemed by adoption
- No one is a natural child of God--all are adopted. No birthright Christians
- Are we human beings having a spiritual experience or are we spiritual beings having a human experience. (Teilhard du Chardin)
- The continuing presence of the spirit in Jesus is the true beginning of the kingdom of God. (Jurgen. Moltmann)
- Mankind are earthen jugs with spirits in them. (Nathaniel Hawthorne)
- Spirit is another word for "God Present" (Tillich)
- "Inspired"....God breathed
- illustration If you stand on six inches of rubber 5,000 volts will refuse to go through you. Spirit is like that will not work unless it can move through you. Same with Spirit
- Christ left us that he may never leave us.
- For holy spirit we substitute: holy bible, holy church, holy father! Too bad!
- We are blind-sided to the Presence beside us and within us.
- Everyone is a house with four rooms: physical, spiritual, mental and emotional. We tend to live in one room . We need to live in all (Indian)
- Life is really only a spiritual foreign-exchange program.

More about Pentecost:

- The power of God that is resident in every believer. Perhaps we need convincing that we, too, have the power to proclaim.
- "A happening" An unplanned, unexpected, unorganized, yet vivid and exciting.
- Fire is a metaphor for enthusiasm and spirit.
- Little fish asks his Mother, "Where is the ocean?" Mother replies, "It's all around you, it fills your holes." Little fish doesn't believe her and spend his life asking others fish.
- A scientist walked through the jungle and saw piles of wood as if someone was going to start a fire. He discovered that the apes, mimicking man, laid the pieces of wood down. The only trouble was the apes were missing the spark needed to finish the act.
- Appropriate the spirit!
- "The spirit remains in the humdrum of our daily lives, hidden and mostly unnoticed by us." Paul
- The river that never runs dry.
- Mickey Anders We are comfortable with Pentecost as a noun. but when you make the word an adjective ("Pentecostal"), we become nervous. I find it odd that churches that observe Pentecost don't like the word "Pentecostal," and churches that like to be called "Pentecostal" don't observe Pentecost!

Sue Turner attended a training class for people that are interested in facilitating Listening Circles. Keep tuned for more information regarding this. You can also visit the world church web page.

Summer is quickly approaching and that means **camps and reunions**!! Check out the mission center web page to get dates and forms for the various camps and reunions planned for this summer.

May 15th – Baby Blessing for Emily Baird

May 15th – Potluck after the worship service

May 15th – Congregational planning meeting after potluck

June 2-5th - Community of Christ Special World Conference - Independence, MO

The worship and nursery schedules have been posted in the family center for January through March, 2005. Please check these .

Nursery Schedule:

May 15th - Jennifer & Kip Decker

May 22nd – Sue & Alex Turner

May 29th – Rena & Jeff Whitehall

Please review the prayer list in the Sunday bulletin. If you have added someone to the list please update Leo Caesar with any new information and current status of the prayer concern. Please contact Leo Caesar if you wish to add/remove someone from the list.

Calendar & Mission Center News:

The Coastal Bend Mission Center is proud to announce that the Coastal Bend web site is up and running! You can visit the site at www.coastalbendmc.org

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The following is a schedule of those that are currently scheduled to deliver the message for the 2nd quarter. This is not the “official list” and is for informational purposes only. Please refer to the worship schedule in the fellowship hall for changes.

May 15th – Sue Turner

May 22nd – Carole & Leo Caesar

May 29th - David Watson – Testimony Service

I will be sending out periodic e-mails letting everyone know what is “HAPPENING” at Fairbanks. Please let me know if your e-mail or other contact information changes.

Mark your calendars and **participate, enjoy, reach out!!!!!!**I pray that everyone have a safe and happy week.

Martha Romig