



THE SPIRE

The newsletter of the Bay Shore United Methodist Church

The Rev. Wendy C. Modeste, Pastor

June 2015

THE PENTECOST EXPERIENCE

On the seventh Sunday after Easter (this year May 24th) we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost and you ask yourself, what does that mean? There were three major feasts that Israel was to observe. During these feasts all the Jews, especially the Jewish males, would come to Jerusalem from every part of the world to celebrate these feasts unto God. The Feast of Unleavened Bread or Passover—was celebrated to commemorate their release from bondage in Egypt. God “passed over” the homes where the blood of the Lamb was sprinkled. (Exodus 12:13, 27) The Feast of Ingathering or Tabernacles –was celebrated to commemorate the time the Israelites lived in tents in the wilderness. It also commemorated the end of the grapes and olive harvest. The third feast which was celebrated fifty days after Passover is known as Pentecost or the Feast of Harvest or Firstfruits. This celebration was to dedicate the first fruits of the wheat harvest to God.

In Acts Chapter 2 we read, “When the day of Pentecost had fully come...,” this means that it was the actual day of the Feast of Harvest. All the Jews were gathered for the celebration, the custom, but on this particular day something unusual is happening. “And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.” (Acts 2:5) They had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Harvest.

Here we see the wisdom of God. The Scripture said, “...and the one who is wise saves lives.” (Proverbs 11:30). With men from every nation under heaven, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit took place on that day. It was a strategic move of God and sets the stage for the Gospel to be spread in every nation and to be heard in every language. God is a WISE GOD and nothing that God does is by chance. It’s strategic and sets the stage for God’s purpose and God’s glory.

The coming of the Holy Spirit was a promise. “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.” (John 14:16) And again in John Chapter 16:7, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you.” And then again in the Book of Acts Chapter 1:4-5, Jesus said to the disciples before he ascended into heaven, “While he was with them he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. This, he said, “is what you have heard from me, for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now... But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you: and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” (Verse 8)

On this very day of Pentecost, the Jewish celebration, God in God’s wisdom sent the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Instead of everyone’s attention centered on the celebration of the Harvest, there’s a great deal of commotion taking place, something strange is happening. The presence of God showed up in the midst of all the preparations and festivities. God’s presence is made known with visible, audible manifestations. “And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” (Acts 2:1-4)

THE PENTECOST EXPERIENCE (continued)

This is not the first time God showed up in the presence of the people. We remember in Book of Exodus when God would come down to speak to Moses and the people of Israel in the wilderness. What did the people say to Moses? “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.” (Exodus 20:19) When God came down to speak to Moses and the people the Scripture said, “All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance.” (Exodus 20:18) Well, this is the same effect. The people were “amazed, astonished, and perplexed” because they heard the apostles and disciples who were waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit them speaking in all the different languages. Some thought that they were drunk. (Acts 2:12)

What took place on Pentecost was a phenomenal Holy Spirit experience. The work of Jesus was continuing through the apostles. Jesus promised the apostles that when the Holy Spirit comes, “you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) They were already empowered to do the work of the ministry. Jesus gave them the authority. Jesus gave them “Exousia,” power of authority (Greek Lexicon #1849). But then they needed another kind of power. Spiritual power from God to do spiritual work, “Dunamis” power (Greek Lexicon #1411). Dunamis power is power of the infilling or the overflowing of the Holy Spirit. Then Peter, after being empowered, stood up and preached his first sermon without fear. When the Holy Spirit empowers you it takes away the fear and gives you boldness and confidence. Peter, who denied Jesus earlier, is now empowered and he preached his first sermon. “We are not drunk as you suppose for it is only the third hour of the day.” (2: 14) Three thousand (3,000) souls (Jewish men) gave their lives to God that day and the Church of Jesus Christ was born.

Just as Jesus had a purpose for coming in the manifestation of humanity, the Holy Spirit had a purpose for coming. Jesus was God and is God. The Holy Spirit is God not in the flesh but in the Spirit. Jesus came in the flesh to redeem humanity back to God. The Holy Spirit is God in the Spirit to empower humanity to LIVE for God and to BE A WITNESS for God. Being a witness for God is when we serve—how we do what we do to show to the world who God is. When we manifest, in our own lives, the Fruit of the Spirit: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-24) we manifest the character and attributes of God. None of us are able to manifest the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

We receive God’s empowerment by yielding ourselves to God. The more you yield, the more you are empowered to manifest the character and attributes of God and becoming a witness for God to the world—as we love God and in turn love one another, as we are patient with one another, as we exhibit the joy of the Lord that gives us strength, under pressure. Showing kindness and showing goodness, being gentle with each other and having self-control.

We yield ourselves to God by spending time with God. Here are some ways we can do that:

- 1) Attending Worship Service regularly--coming to church and being consistent. Fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness. Being faithful is being consistent.
- 2) Having your own quiet time with God. Give God time. If you love someone you would want to spend time to get to know them better. Daily devotionals such as Our Daily Bread (available in print or online at odb.org) help you to remain focus as you, each day, find a Scripture and prayer to meditate on.
- 3) Prayer—Prayer is extremely important to staying in connection with God. It is how we communicate with God.
- 4) Bible Reading—reading your Bible is how God communicates to you.

THE PENTECOST EXPERIENCE (continued)

5) Bible Study—we all need help in knowing the Scripture. Coming together to help each other understand the Scripture is an important way to increase our knowledge of God.

The Holy Spirit is God. God manifested in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not to be feared, God is not to be feared. God loves us and wants the best for us. As you yield yourselves to God, God will continually empower you, giving you the ability to live for God and do service for God, being a witness.

Blessings!

Pastor Wendy

**WE'RE BACK!**

After a four month hiatus due to technical difficulties, we are grateful to announce that The Spire has returned to publication. Thanks to all those who contributed to this comeback issue and especially to Spire Editor Ellen Fager. Because of the gap in publication we will prepare a Summer 2015 issue to be published in early July, then resume monthly publication with the September issue. Please submit articles to Ellen at citylife4@verizon.net by June 10th for the Summer issue and August 10th for the September issue.

MISSIONS

Thank you to the congregation for supporting the Pancake Breakfast in March. We raised over \$300.00. As always, special thanks to all those who donated their time, money and other things to make it successful.

Missions was able to send \$500 to the United Methodist Church's Imagine No Malaria Campaign. Once again, thank you to the congregation for their generosity.

We had a successful spring food drive to benefit the Bay Shore Food Pantry. We recently received thank you letters from the Rosebud children for the wonderful Christmas presents we sent them. The letters are posted on the Missions bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Please take a little time to read them. Vida Owusu – Missions



Pancake Breakfast

THE STORY BEHIND PENNIES FOR PRESERVATION

Back when we had to use our building fund money to restore and strengthen the large stained glass window on the South wall of the church with the money on hand, the Trustees searched for a company to do the work. We got the required three bids and found that one of them was close to us. Since it has been our custom to support local people when possible it went to visit their workplace and arranged for them to meet with the trustees and see the job that needed to be undertaken. Of course this was done after approval of the Board of Trustees and what is now known as the Church Council.

While we were in the sanctuary discussing the job and financing, Mr. Sommers told us how one church had saved pennies to help pay for the restoration of their stained glass windows. Thus our Pennies for Preservation fund was started. There is a container as you enter the church [and a second one in the window between the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall – ed.] where people can leave their pennies and pocket change. We now have a restored window, but we still need to paint the church.

We started collecting Pennies for Preservation on February 4, 2008. Here is the breakdown year by year:

2008	\$1,107.08	2009	\$478.10	2010	\$528.00
2011	\$449.00	2012	\$339.20	2013	\$307.00
2014	\$277.00	2015	\$60.00	TOTAL COLLECTED \$3,545.38	

Let us continue collecting our pennies for preservation for our church. Remember that bending over to pick up that penny that you see on the floor or ground is good exercise. Any contribution that you can spare is greatly appreciated. It may not be listed on your contribution sheet, but God knows of your generosity to our church.

Alice M Cavalla

MUSIC AND ART FAIR SUNDAY JUNE 14th

The Church will have a table at our usual location near Ralph's Italian Ice on Main Street June 14th. Please stop by and say hello. If you would like to take an hour shift at the table contact Chris Hoff, Tom Wilson, or the Church Office.

Our historic Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall will be open for tours from noon to 3:30pm on June 14th and we need members of our Church to help tell visitors about our history, our service to the community, and our fellowship. Training and background material will be provided to all volunteers, if you are interested in helping please contact Pastor Wendy.

Our Childcare Center will have an Open House from noon to 3:30pm on June 14th with free face painting, free kids craft, and a drawing for a free week in our Summer Program. Invite your friends and neighbors with children 18 months to 5 years of age to visit the facility, meet our teachers, and learn about our outstanding early childhood programs.

ARE YOU ON OUR GROUP EMAIL LIST?

Our Yahoo Group Email is an "invitation only" email list that allows quick communication to the congregation of prayer requests, important announcements, and news affecting the life of our congregation. We promise not to flood you with mail - typical volume is a couple of emails per week - and you can take yourself off the list at any time.

If you are not on the list and wish to be added please send your email address to office@bayshoreumc.org and we will send you an invitation to join.

UPDATE ON CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

I would like to express my thanks to all who responded to the recent letter regarding congregational giving and our Church finances. As you know from that letter, congregational giving through the first quarter was only 64% of budget and as one result of this we were in danger of having the Church's liability and property insurance canceled. Thanks to a loan from the Trustees we were able to pay that insurance bill, but Trustee funds are supposed to be used for maintaining the physical structure and we really need to pay them back.

The good news is that in the seven weeks since April 1, offerings have increased to raise our cumulative congregational giving level to 90% of budget. We are not out of the woods yet but this trend is encouraging. Please continue to prayerfully consider your circumstances and thanks for giving what you can to support our small corner of God's Universal Church. Tom Wilson - Finance Chair



The Altar, Easter Sunday



Children's Easter Egg Hunt

WE WANT YOUR PICTURES!

Since the Spire is now printed in color we can publish photographs, and our Facebook page is always in need of good material. If you have pictures of Church activities you would like to share please email them to:

Tom Wilson at twilson@brightwaters.com if you would like them considered for posting on the Church Facebook page.

Spire editor Ellen Fager at citylife4@verizon.net if you would like them considered for use in the Spire.

Feel free to send the same pictures to both people. When submitting pictures please ask permission of the folks photographed (and the parents of children). Additional information on the who, what, where, when, and why that we can use for captions or accompanying stories would be very much appreciated.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Find our page on Facebook by searching for "Bay Shore United Methodist Church" on Facebook.com. Posts include Church news, event announcements, inspirational quotes, and Church musical performances. When you like and share items with your friends and neighbors you are helping to make disciples in a new way by expanding our outreach and raising our visibility in the community.

“He Who Sings, Prays Twice!” - St. Augustine

Notes from the Music Director

June 21st - Happy Father's Day!

June 28th- Independence Day Service



Please join us on Sunday June 28th, for our Independence Day Service. As always, the entire service will be patriotic music. Our instrumentalists will join us, and our Chamber Choir and Handbell Choir will perform. We will sing “America, the Beautiful”, “God Bless, America”, “Battle Hymn of the Republic”, and we end the service with “The Stars and Stripes Forever”. Join us for fellowship following the service, as well.

Rehearsals

Chamber Choir

Thursday June 4 th -	7:00 pm. – 8:30 pm.	in the School Building
Thursday June 11 th -	7:00 pm. – 8:30 pm.	in the School Building
Thursday June 18 th -	No Rehearsal	
Thursday June 25 th -	7:00 pm. – 8:00 pm.	in the School Building

Penataquit Handbell Choir

Sunday June 7 th -	11:15 am. – 12:15 pm.	in the West Room
Sunday June 14 th -	11:15 am. – 12:15 pm.	in the West Room
Sunday June 21 st -	11:15 am. – 12:15 pm.	in the West Room

June Birthdays

June 2 Kerry Seyda
June 3 Patrick Farugio
June 4 Kristina Conste
June 5 Sarah Schaw
June 6 Kwaku O. Owusu
June 9 Jeffrey Zelenka
June 10 Louis Bernard, Amanda Van Nostrand
June 11 Kristina Valcarce
June 13 Christine Williams
June 14 Naomi Freije, Kimberly Gosline
June 17 Melinda Dieters
June 19 Jonathan Hannett
June 20 Jason Abrams, Kerri Giesler,
 David Scharfenberg
June 21 Bill Aromi, Megan Joseph, Ed Williams
June 24 Otila Perez
June 25 David Fager

More June Birthdays!

June 26 Brittany Arrigo, Robert Miller
June 27 Joyce DeLuca
June 28 Megan McElroy
June 29 Stephen Schmalfuss
June 30 Jessica DiPietro

June Anniversaries

June 9 William and Jeanne Aromi
June 11 Sam and Karen DiPietro
June 12 Raymond and Ginger Sullivan
June 15 Michael and Joan Burvenich
June 18 Nicholas and Lorraine DiGenaro
June 19 Ridley and Pansy Tomlinson
June 20 Harold and Leslie Owen
June 22 Catherine & Louis Bernard
June 25 Thomas and Helen Wilson
June 26 Luis and Kathy Guevara

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

Soup Kitchen: Thursdays 4:30 p.m.

Thrift Shop: Wednesdays 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m., Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit" - Acts 2:1-4a (NIV)

Elaine Williams is now at
Bella Mi Salon
135 East Main Street East Islip NY

Bay Shore Day Care and Preschool

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of the Bay Shore United Methodist Church

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"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." -Galatians 5:22 (NIV)