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TOWER

A Communication Channel of the
Transfiguration

MAY 2009

We are a community of Christians in fellowship with each other and Jesus Christ. We gather for spiritual guidance and fellowship by participating together in liturgy, prayer, and traditions. We are committed to providing an atmosphere characterized by freedom, openness, and mutual support for the spiritual journeys of individuals, families, and future generations.



Dear Friends,

The month of May holds many opportunities for us to encounter and experience God's revelation to us. The great Feast of Pentecost is actually both the last day and Sunday of May this year. Pentecost is the birthday of the church. Recently I attended two birthday parties. One for my nephew who turned 8, and the other, a good friend who turned 60. The gifts we offered to them were as totally different as their ages. There is a difference with the birthday gifts that God bestows upon us; they are for people of all ages and graciously given throughout the ages. The gifts or fruits of the Holy Spirit are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self control.

In Baptism we all receive these gifts which have especially been given to us. St. Paul insists that the Spirit distributes among us all sorts of gifts, from wisdom to faith. These are indeed charisms, gifts from the Spirit to individuals for the good of the community. But we dare not limit God's gifts to the dramatic, high-powered, obviously spiritual gifts. God's gift to others is you, this living bundle of paradoxes and contradictions. You will discover all sorts of talents if you will only stop contrasting yourself with the beautiful and the brilliant, with the powerful and the personable, with the exotic and the eccentric, with the "celebrities" of this world.

God's gifts are fantastic! Please remember that you have been given even greater gifts—on the level of sheer humanness. Gifts to be given. God made you to look with love into the eyes of others and listen to the music of their voices, made you to touch a face or a flower, to taste and smell the human condition. God made you to think and feel, to laugh and weep, to dance and play, to sing and strum, to walk and talk, to sweat in fear and tremble for joy. Whatever you are, whoever you are, you are God's gift, a gift that in its turn can be given.

It is a glorious thing to be human, to be yourself, to be "natural." But if God's gifts to you are to shape you and others in Christ, you cannot rely on just you, on the talents that are your sheer humanness. These must be driven by a deeper force. I mean the Spirit of God who lives so silently, so secretly, deep inside you. "The power is within." It is St. Paul's challenging cry to the Christians of Corinth: "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

Our God, for all that He is beyond us, lives within us. And He lives within us to be known and loved - yes, felt. This is what our Lord had in mind for all of us on the first Pentecost, when "a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind," when "there appeared to [the apostles] tongues as of fire ... resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. . ."

You see, ever since God took flesh in Jesus, to be fully human is to be in the image of Christ. But only the God who made you can take that sharp intellect of yours and shape it into "the mind of Christ."

Only the Spirit within you can make your every day a new creation, because only the Spirit can make you what St. Paul called "a new creature," alive with the life of the risen Christ, alive not only for yourself but also for the lonely and despairing, as well as the furious and frustrated. Only the Spirit who lives in you can bring you to feel God's own pleasure, guarantee you a delight in living far deeper than any product advertising can promise. It will be tragic if you profit from external ego or social status but neglect the Power inside you, the Counselor who alone can lead you into all truth, the Spirit who alone can make you chariots of fire.

Little wonder we pray: "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful ones and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and they will be created; and you will renew the face of the earth."

in His peace,



Christ is both the Shepherd and the sheep. As Shepherd He protects His flock even giving His life for them. As the sacrificial lamb He takes the place of the sheep who would otherwise suffer and He dies that they might live.

*The infant Church; of love she felt the tide
Stream on her from her Lord's yet recent grave.
And then she smiled; and in the Catacombs,
With eye suffused, but heart inspired true,
On those walls subterranean, where she hid,
Her head 'mid ignominy, death and tombs,
She her Good Shepherd's hasty image drew;
And on His shoulders, not a lamb, a kid.*



MATTHEW ARNOLD,
The Good Shepherd with the Kid

TRINITY CHURCH
MINISTRY OF THE ARTS

PRESENTS

A Revised Version of

THE AMERICAN SONGBOOK
DOES TIME

A salute to the passage of time with words and music



Directed by Paul Allard
Musical Direction by Al Deston III

Dates: May 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 16th & 17th 2009

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Trinity Church, Honyman Hall
Queen Anne Square, Newport

Suggested donation: \$15.00 (Seniors and Military \$10.00)

(Reservations at Trinity Church: Call (401) 846-0660 from 10:00am-3:00pm)

(Reservations for The Episcopal Charities: Call (401) 274-4500 ext. 233)

Cast Members:

Al Deston
Chris Myers
Harriet Higgins
Nancy Roy
Pro Lyon
Steve Rous
Kaitlyn Lengyel

Carol Elliott
Dennis Kretzschmar
Katherine Sheridan
Paul Allard
Roger Gauthier
Erin Myers
Jerry Silva (Musician)

Cathy Taitz
Diane Myers
Lynn Ceglie
Paul Koumrian
Stephen Parfet
Jonathan Myers
Gary Nitkin (Musician)

Proceeds to benefit The Episcopal Charities Fund of RI
Musical concept and creation by Al Deston III and Paul Koumrian

CHURCH NEWS

Parish Family Picnic Sunday May 31st

Following the 10 a.m. Service you are invited to
attend our Parish Family Picnic.

Music ~ Food ~ Fun

Please Join Us!

~ ~ ~

SUNDAY SUMMER SERVICES: Please mark your calendars. The 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Services will be combined into one Service at 9:00 a.m. from June 7th through September 6th. This time schedule provides a unique opportunity for those who usually attend at 8:00 a.m. to meet and worship with the people who usually attend at 10:00 a.m. and vice versa..

FOOD CLOSET

Please don't forget our Food Closet this summer. In addition to non-perishable foods and canned goods, health and beauty aids and baby items are always needed. There are baskets at the back of the church in which to leave these items. Your support is very much appreciated

YOGA CLASSES

Yoga classes are now being held in the Davis Room on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. If you are interested in attending these classes or have any questions, please contact Bonnie Alexander.

SUMMER COFFEE HOUR

The coffee hour is an important component of our ministry of fellowship. Even though it is summer, it is still important for us to meet and greet each other and welcome those in a very personal way who are visiting with us. If you would like to volunteer for a Sunday, there is a Sign-Up Sheet in the Patton Room. Your help is very much appreciated.

† MEMORIAL †

With sympathy we announce the death of Helen Page
And pray for her family in their time of sorrow.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. Psalm 116:15

**I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another Comforter. JOHN 14**

The disciples were gathered together on the Jewish feast of Pentecost, no longer the miserable and defeated band which they had been before the Resurrection but ready now to receive the inrush of the Holy Spirit which so filled them that the cosmopolitan crowd thought them drunk and were astonished to find that they could understand these simple Galileans in their own languages.

THE CHRISTIAN SEASON OF PENTECOST or Whitsuntide corresponds to the Jewish festival of Weeks or Pentecost in the same way that the Christian Easter corresponds to the Passover. These two annual Jewish feasts have a story of development from nature festivals to historical commemorations. The Passover, originally a springtime, lambing season festival, coincided with the Feast of Unleavened Bread, marking the beginning of reaping the harvest. The two feasts became fused in biblical times into a single festival commemorating the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. just as the Passover marked the beginning of the reaping season, so the Feast of Weeks marked its end. After forty-nine days, a week of weeks, came the day of the festival, Pentecost being the Greek for the fiftieth day. Later Rabbinical writers treated it as a commemoration of the delivery of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Just as both these Jewish festivals correspond to Christian ones, so they both actually played a part in the events of Christian history commemorated at Easter and Pentecost. The Last Supper of Jesus and the disciples was the meal shared in every Jewish household on the night of the Passover. Later outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred when multitudes had come to Jerusalem for the observance of the Jewish feast of Pentecost, and the disciples were 'all together in one place' (which may have been a private house or part of the Temple) precisely for this reason.

A further comparison may be made between the Jewish and Christian festivals of Pentecost. The giving of the Law of Moses came during the formative period of the Hebrew people and made possible the union of the twelve tribes into a single nation with a common moral standard. In the same way the gift of the Holy Spirit converted the disciples into the Church of God, the New Israel, devoted to the task of proclaiming Christ's message and performing His mission in the world. So Pentecost has sometimes been called the 'birthday of the Christian Church'.

After Easter, Pentecost ranks as the second festival of the Christian year and has been observed from ancient times. Some early writers use the word 'Pentecost' for the whole period of the 'great fifty days' of Eastertide and others only for the concluding day of the period (Whitsunday), but from the beginning of the fourth century the latter sense began to prevail. The celebrations after the day seem always to have been confined to the octave. The Apostolic Constitutions, a collection of ecclesiastical law dating from the latter half of the fourth century, state, 'After you have kept the festival of Pentecost, keep one week more festival, and after that, fast'. In the English Book of Common Prayer, Monday and Tuesday are seen as 'Red Letter Days' while Wednesday, Friday and Saturday are Ember Days. The common English name for the festival of Pentecost is thought most likely to have been originally 'White Sunday' from its association with the white robes of baptism.

*Where is the fire which once descended
On Thy Apostles? Thou didst then
Keep open house, richly attended,
Feasting allcomers by twelve chosen men,
Lord, though we change, Thou art the same,
The same sweet God of love and light:
Restore this day, for thy great name,
Unto his ancient and miraculous right.*

GEORGE HERBERT

Pentecost
Fire



May 2009 – Dates To Remember

- May 2nd Ladies Afternoon Tea - 1:00 p.m.
May 12th Vestry Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
May 31st Parish Family Picnic (following 10 a.m. Service)

Sunday Worship Services

Holy Eucharist

8:00 a.m. Rite I

10:00 a.m. Rite II

Summer Church Service Schedule

June 7th – September 6th

Holy Eucharist Rite II

One Service Only – 9:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays - 5/27 and 6/3 - 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir

Weekly

Tuesdays and Fridays: 9 – 11:00 a.m. Food Closet
Wednesday Evenings: 5 – 6:30 p.m. Food Closet
Thursdays Evenings: 7:30 p.m. CODA Meeting
Friday Evenings: 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting
Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. Altar Guild

Please Note: The Food Closet will be open Wednesday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. beginning May 6th.

During the months of July and August there will be one issue of the Tower. Church announcements and news regarding upcoming events will be posted on the Bulletin Board.

May Servers

- 5-3 Readers 8 a.m. Harriett Dever
 10 a.m. Janet Burnham
Greeter Mary Holburn
Altar Guild Group 3
Ushers 10 a.m. David Brierley & Vin DiGiulio
- 5-10 Readers 8 a.m. Harriett Dever
 10 a.m. Jennifer Long
Greeter Mitzi Schortmann
Altar Guild Group 4
Ushers 8 a.m. John Rowan & Joyce Rowan
 10 a.m. Audrey Rose & Bruce Schortmann
- 5-17 Readers 8 a.m. Harriett Dever
 10 a.m. Ed Dean
Greeter Carol Brierley
Altar Guild Group 1
Ushers 10 a.m. Ed Dean & Karl Nestlerode
- 5-24 Readers 8 a.m. Harriett Dever
 10 a.m. Debrorah Palazzo
Greeter Audrey Rose
Altar Guild Group 2
Ushers 10 a.m. Christopher Ash & Orville Forbes
- 5-31 Readers 8 a.m. Harriett Dever
 10 a.m. Joe Rose
Greeter Kate Lemery
Altar Guild Group 3
Ushers 10 a.m. Len Banville & John Kelsall

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!