



# FIRST CHURCH NEWS

May 2018

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REFLECTING THE MANY FACETS OF OUR LIVES TOGETHER AS A FAMILY OF FAITH



Happy Birthday to the Church! Now you will ask me, "What do you mean, Pastor? I know it's the 275<sup>th</sup> of FCC Boylston, but isn't that in October??"

I am referring to the "birthday" of the Church of Jesus Christ, which is the nickname that some preachers (myself included) apply to Pentecost. In a very superficial way, Pentecost is a "cool" event in the life of the Church, in that I get to wear my red stole (that's my fanciest one).

Why is Pentecost such a big deal? Well, it started long before Jesus Christ walked the earth as a man. Pentecost is derived from an old Greek word used for the "Feast of Weeks," which is one of several names used for a harvest festival celebrated from the time of Deuteronomy and Exodus. Ancient Jewish scholars used the timelines of Scripture to connect the date of the festival to God giving the Ten Commandments to Moses for the people Israel.

So, when the book of Acts describes the events of "our" Pentecost, using that name, it refers to a festival time that would be very familiar to the disciples, and to all Jewish readers of the book. The feast was celebrated seven weeks (a week of weeks) and a day after Passover. Hence, the root of the name refers to the number 50.

As Christians, we count out Pentecost as the fiftieth day of Easter (counting Easter as day one). So, seven weeks after Easter Sunday, we will celebrate Pentecost.

Why the big deal for Christians? Take a look at the second chapter of the book of the Acts of the Apostles (verses 1-4):

*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 and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

The story of the birth of the Christian Church continues for the rest of the second chapter of Acts. I commend it for your reading. Peter,

the former fishermen, delivers a powerful sermon. Three thousand were convicted, converted, and baptized in Jerusalem that day. What a revival meeting that would be, even today, perhaps especially today!

We have scriptural images (particularly at Jesus' baptism) of the Holy Spirit descending as a dove. That is one of the symbols that we use to this day in church imagery to depict the Holy Spirit. From this story of Pentecost in Acts, we have also adopted symbols of wind and flame for the Holy Spirit.

The symbol of wind or breath for the Holy Spirit is also repeated many times in Scripture. In Genesis, the *Ruach Elohim* (spirit of God or breath of God) moved over the waters. In the New Testament, the words used for Holy Spirit are *Pneuma Hagion*, which translate literally as Breath (or Wind) Holy. Jesus breathed on his disciples, and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:22)

With the Holy Spirit come the Gifts of the Spirit. See 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, for the Apostle Paul's discussion of them. They are the enduring "birthday presents" for the Church, given by the Spirit, for the common good of the Body of Christ.

In Galatians, chapter 5, Paul further elaborates on what the Holy Spirit can do for the Church. He lists the fruit of the Spirit, that is, what the benefits of using the gifts and following the leading of the Spirit are for our lives together. Take a look at those, too. They are well worth the work of applying the gifts.

We'll talk more about Pentecost (I will, anyway) and the birthday presents of the Church on Pentecost Sunday. By now, you have enough information to look at a calendar and see when Pentecost Sunday will be this year. (By the way, we will also celebrate the confirmation of baptism of a group of our young folks that Sunday!)

Here is a trivia question for the curious: Where is there a symbol of the Holy Spirit in our meetinghouse? Which one is it?

Your loving servant in Christ, Pastor Dave

*Pastor Dave*

## *Ladies Benevolent Society*

We will be meeting at the Church on **Thursday, May 10th, at 10:00 a.m.** All ladies are invited to attend. Just bring a sandwich. Dessert, coffee and tea will be served. The devotions will be led by Carol Leach, and the hostesses are Judith White, Joyce Bellerose and April Cleveland.


## *Freestyle Sunday*

**What is Freestyle Sunday?** Imagine you are on a wonderfully large cruise ship to Bermuda with many different delicacies served on board ship! You get to choose anything you want to eat on any given day. Now apply this concept to Fellowship Time...**THAT IS FREESTYLE SUNDAY!** How do you get involved? There will be a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall 2-3 weeks prior to the Freestyle Sunday. You just sign up for one of "jobs" that you want to do: set up, clean up, or bring a goodie--that's it! Your help is greatly appreciated! And we are hoping this will be a lot of fun for all of us! **The first Freestyle Sunday will be May 6, 2018.**

**free style**

**So, expect to see the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall!!!**

## *Baptism*

**NEWLY**  
  
**BAPTIZED**

On April 22 we joyfully welcomed Christopher Riviere into our church family through the sacrament of infant baptism. Christopher was presented by his parents, Stilvie Francois and Labady Riviere. His Godparents, Divert Lowensky, Shalonda Semevil, Shamira Semevil and Helena Riviere also stood up for Christopher. The congregation pledged their love and support as the family enters a wonderful new phase of their life.

## *Sunday School News*

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Public Safety Sunday, the Sunday School children made cards thanking the people in the police and fire departments for all they do. They presented them during the worship service.



On May 6<sup>th</sup>, two children, Hope Cleveland and Nadia Foster will be receiving their first communion. Please make sure that you greet them on that Sunday.

For Memorial Day, the church will have a float in the Boylston parade. The float will include some of our Sunday school children as well.

Save the date! Don't forget Children's Sunday is June 10<sup>th</sup> this year. Be sure to join us for the all-church picnic after the worship service. June 10<sup>th</sup> is the last day for Sunday school for this year. Mustard Seed also ends for the summer. It will start again in September.

## *Memorial Day on the Common*



Once again our Deacons will be on the Common on Memorial Day selling their delicious barbequed Hot Dogs. Please come and enjoy the Parade, the Music, the Food and most importantly the Honoring of our Veterans who have served our country and to especially honor those who made the Ultimate Sacrifice.

## *Kitchen Committee*

As a result of having our Freezer serviced which included a good radiator cleaning, the Church Freezer is operating within its normal temperatures so repair/replacement is not anticipated at this time. We will be having the pilot light systems on both ovens serviced.



*May Volunteer Schedule*

*June Volunteer Schedule*

**~ Lay Reader ~**

- 5/6 – April Gustafson
- 5/13 – April Cleveland
- 5/20 – Brennan Lau
- 5/27- Judith White

**~ Lay Reader ~**

- 6/3 – Ginny Ekblom
- 6/10 – Sunday School
- 6/17 – Judith White
- 6/24- Jennifer Smith

**~ Worship Leader ~**

- 5/6 – Mark Fuller
- 5/13 – Kristin Hope
- 5/20 – Judith White
- 5/27- Deb Larkin

**~ Worship Leader ~**

- 6/3 – Scott Anderson
- 6/10 – Bob Chaplis
- 6/17 – Kathy Buchanan
- 6/24- Mark Young

**~ Deacon ~**

Betty Larkin

**~ Deacon ~**

Bob Chaplis

**~ Coffee Hour ~**

- 5/6 – FREE STYLE SUNDAY
- 5/13 – Board of Deacons
- 5/20 – Memorials Committee
- 5/27- Nominating Committee

**~ Coffee Hour ~**

- 6/3 – Stewardship
- 6/10 – Children’s Sunday
- 6/17 – N/A
- 6/24 – N/A

