

# PENTECOST



## St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry

May 20, 2015

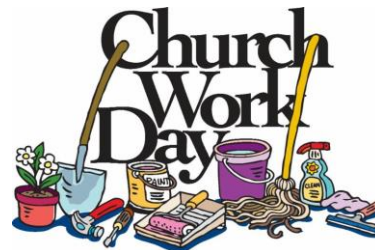
### *In this issue...*

- + Thoughts from Lori
- + Church Cleanup Day
- + Coffee & Conversation
- + Upcoming events
- + Hymns and Lessons
- + Bill's cartoon



St. Paul's  
Episcopal Church

3706 W. St. Paul Ave.  
McHenry, IL 60050



## SPECIAL CLEAN-UP DAY THIS SATURDAY, MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> 9AM 'TIL ?

We have some urgent projects to tackle and we need as much help as possible.

- We've got a dumpster coming so we can remove the remaining debris from the Chapel and Seaton Room renovations which is still in the back hallway.
- We also need to begin removing and/or organizing (for a future sale or donation) the furnishings in the Upper Room (formerly the Little Cherubs school area) and to clean out the attic.
- We'll schedule a yard clean-up day sometime next month, but meanwhile, the area around the sign out front is in desperate need of some initial weeding.

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## Quick Links

St. Paul website

Vestry Minutes

January 2015

February 2015

March 2015

Diaper Bank

Episcopal News Service

Diocese of Chicago

Lectionary Calendar

Forward Day by Day

Join Our  
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Please bring tools if you plan to help with this.

PLEASE COME AND PITCH IN! MANY HANDS MAKE  
LIGHT WORK... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

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## **SUNDAY IS PENTECOST: WEAR RED!**

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### **Coffee & Conversation**

After getting your coffee and having a little fellowship, we'll give over the conversation to the teams of volunteers preparing for our first ever Mobile Food Pantry, which will be coming on the following Saturday, May 30th. Even if you attended last night's very energetic and helpful meeting, there are many details still to be considered. Plan to stay and find out more.

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### *Thoughts from Lori*

Pentecost is on my mind. You remember Pentecost, right? Ascension (when Jesus was taken up into heaven) was 40 days after his resurrection, which is when he told his followers to go to Jerusalem and wait for a special gift from God. Ten days later - and if you're using your math skills, that's a total of 50 days - while praying and singing, they received the gift of God's Holy Spirit. "Pente" is Latin for 50; thus Pentecost.

What you may not have firmly in mind is that Pentecost is the second most important day in the life of the Church, second only to Easter. But, you're asking, what about Christmas? Well, the celebration of Jesus' birth didn't enter the calendar until sometime in the 4th century. Easter and Pentecost were among

the earliest and most sacred of Christian holy days.

It is one of the four occasions specified in the Book of Common Prayer (see page 312) as most fitting for Baptism. This year we are blessed to share in the Baptism of Winter Sinclair Nardi (age 11 months), son of Betsy and Steven, and to renew our own baptismal vows. It will be wonderful to welcome Winter into the family of God!

As much as I am looking forward to this Baptism, the reason Pentecost has been so much on my mind is this: it's all about the POWER of the Holy Spirit. But what does that mean? We usually associate power with having control over something. This power, though, is surely not about that. But what, then? The clue is in the effect this gift had on the disciples, on all Jesus' followers who receive the Holy Spirit, which is this: *it transforms them*. A small band of marginalized men and women became a force to be reckoned with; a group who did nothing less than give birth to the Church.

In recent years, the power of the Holy Spirit has been associated with the charismatic movement; a way of life and worship that is often very demonstrative and sometimes linked to fundamentalism. But I contend that that's not the only manifestation of the Spirit; that having the power of the Spirit may also be subtle. The key is *transformation*. You know you have the gift of the Holy Spirit when you are a different person because of God in your life; when you are nudged by an unseen force to be more forgiving; when you are inspired to be more loving and patient; when you are moved to pray, even (or especially) for those with whom you disagree.

Are you perfect at those things yet? Of course not. The gift of the Holy Spirit is a work in progress in each of us. What we will celebrate this Sunday is that gift and that ongoing work in us. Thanks be to God!

Faithfully,

*Loritt*

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**THE HOLY EUCHARIST**  
will be celebrated tonight at 6:30pm  
just prior to the Vestry meeting.  
***All are welcome!***



**Vestry** - Tonight! Eucharist 6:30 p.m., Mtg at 7:15 p.m.  
**Mobile Food Truck**- Saturday, May 30th, 10:00-noon  
**Women's Wednesday** - June 3rd, 7:00 p.m.  
**Men's Breakfast** - Saturday, June 6th, 8:00 a.m.  
**Endowment Meeting** - Tuesday, June 9th, 7:00 p.m.

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## **Lessons and Hymns** **Sunday, May 24th** **(The Day of Pentecost - Year B)** *by the Rev. William McLemore*

### **THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

**The First Reading:** Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14. Acts recalls the moment that the disciples and followers of Jesus receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, suddenly speaking a universal language, and Peter claiming it is a sign of God's salvation. The Ezekiel passage recalls the prophet's image of the Spirit of God as dry bones which come to life.

**The Psalm:** Psalm 104:25-35, 37b. A hymn to the creative work of Almighty God, "You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth."

**The Epistle:** Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21. This one of Paul's images of the Holy Spirit, which "intercedes with sighs too deep for words." The Acts passage is discussed above.

**The Gospel:** John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15. Jesus describes the nature of the Holy Spirit and adds, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth..."

### **THE HYMNS:**

**Processional Hymn:** No. 225. "Hail Thee Festival Day." This hymn is over 1500 years old and was written by Venanthius Honorius Fortunatus to celebrate several stages of life and God's revelation in Jesus Christ: the spring season, the Resurrection of Jesus, and the blessings of God at the Pentecost. This particular version celebrates the call of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, "Hark! for in myriad tongues Christ's own his chosen apostles, preach to the end of the earth Christ and his wonderful works." The tune, "Salve Feste Dies," was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

**Sequence Hymn:** Instead of a traditional hymn, we will sing a Celtic Alleluia before the Gospel throughout the season of Easter.

**Presentation Hymn:** No. 383. "Fairest Lord Jesus." This hymn originated in Germany and slowly found its way to the English speaking world. It extols the beauty of nature and affirms that Jesus Christ is even more lovely to behold. The tune, "St. Elizabeth," is also of German origin. Its name comes from the use of the tune by Franz Liszt in his oratorio, "The Legend of St. Elizabeth," 1862.

**Communion Hymn:** No. 508, "Breathe on me, Breath of God." Edwin Hatch (1835-1889) wrote this hymn for his own private hymn collection "Between Doubt and Prayer," in 1878. It became so popular that it entered the Anglican hymnal in 1916. It reflects our philosophy of Christian conversion which generally looks to a gradual life of holiness ending in the "perfect life of thine eternity." The son of non-conformist parents in Derby, England, he joined the Church of England in 1853 and was ordained a priest in 1859. Though primarily a scholar, his writing of this hymn reflects a deep belief that God transforms the human heart through the Holy Spirit. The tune, "Nova Vita," literally means "New Life" and was composed by Lister Peace, organist at Queen's College. This hymn lends itself to being sung softly but with a deep breath to reflect the meaning of the words.

**Recessional Hymn:** No. 530. "Spread, O Spread, Thou Mighty Word." This hymn was written by Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier and is one of the first hymns to turn from the individual piety of the 19th century to the zeal for foreign missions and education. The present form includes only the first five of the original seven stanzas of the hymn. The tune, "Gott Sei Dank," is a melody taken from the German, "Geistliches Gesangbuch," (1704) and harmonized by William Henry Havergal (1793-1870).

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### **May 24th Servants**

Usher: Jim Lukas

Lector: Jim Lukas

Intercessor: Terry Jaworski

Eucharistic Ministers: Deb Lang, Charlie Boak

Vestry Person of the Day: Rick Carlstedt

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From the cartoons created by  
*the Rev. William P. McLemore*  
1965 - 2014

