



SteepleTalk

May 2009

From the Pastor...

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Member Care Volunteer

Judy Leonard

Deacon of Month/ Visiting Deacons

Jane Hay
Jack Pratt

Steepletalk Deadline

May 22nd

Circle Meeting

May 5th at 9:45 a.m.

Mission Co-workers
Roger & Gloria Marriott
Ted & Sue Wright

The last Sunday in May is Pentecost Sunday. As I was meditating on the Spirit I was reminded of Romans 8: 26-27 and how *“the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.”*

What is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is the power of the living Christ at work in the hearts of the people and in the church. Theological definitions can be clarifying, but the best way to get to know the Holy Spirit is firsthand, by attentiveness to its work in our hearts and communities.

One thing we will hear if we listen closely to our inward lives during Pentecost is a deep groaning. Like labor pains, Paul says. Each of us is groaning with some mixture of guilt, remorse, sadness, or futility. When we fail to pray and feel scattered and irritable, we groan. When we sit down to pray but can only pray self-centered or mechanical prayers, we groan. When we are not sure what God wants from us, when we are convinced that we are unforgivable, we groan. As a pastor I hear the groaning of God’s people struggling with addictions, depression, the breakdown of relationships, and crises of faith.

We ourselves groan with loneliness, with a sense of being overwhelmed by the tasks before us, or with the pain of criticism. As citizens of the community and world, we hear the groans of the abused and the hopeless. I believe even where there are no tears, there can be groaning. Paul hears all creation groaning in agony as a new world comes to birth.

When we groan, we sometimes write a false equation on the chalkboard of our minds: Groaning equals the absence of God. An experienced spiritual director once said, “Many of us believe it is up to us to pray in a way that reaches God. I believe we are in the presence of God at all times and that prayer is being attentive to that presence.”

Paul offers us a corrective equation: Groaning means the presence of the Holy Spirit. When we groan, whatever the reason, even when we do not know the reason, it means that the Spirit groans with us. The Spirit searches our depths and prays in us. Many times I hear people “I don’t think I know how to pray!” We are not alone. We do not know God’s will perfectly. We do not have strength in and of ourselves to do it. We do not even know our own deepest needs. So the Spirit assists us in our feeble efforts to pray *“with groans that words cannot express.”* Our prayers are at times very selfish, and the Spirit cleanses and purifies them. The Spirit reminds us to pray for others. When we get weary of praying, the Spirit renews our spiritual strength as individuals and as a faith community. In fact, it is only because of the Spirit’s presence in our hearts that we pray at all. And every time we do pray, it is because we have heard the Spirit’s call and are answering it.

The Spirit searches our depths, surfacing our longings and aspirations, which are so deep that they cannot be expressed in mere words. The Spirit mediates them to God and then mediates God’s longings and aspirations for us back to us. The Spirit prays for us, according to God’s will.

As we approach the birthday of the church and the giving of the Holy Spirit to us, let us meditate on the fact that the Spirit of God is always with us and seeking the best for us.

Blessings,
Dr. Cheetham

Talent Show

The annual talent show has been rescheduled for Wednesday, May 13th, immediately following the family night dinner. Contact Kristy in the church office if you plan to perform.

Youth Sunday

The youth of our church, under the guidance of Nick Reed, will lead the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 10th. Youth of all ages will be participating; Sara Hay will give the message. Please show your support for Nick and the youth by attending.

FPC Lunch Break

Come and join Nick and other members of the church as they gather for Lunch Break at Crave Café and Bookstore (next to Signature Jewelry on Lebanon Road). On two Thursdays this month, May 14th and May 28th, feel free to drop in anytime between 11:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. for a time of lunch, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

Prayer Breakfast May 16th

The monthly prayer breakfast will be on Saturday, May 16th at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join as we gather to have breakfast with one another and a time of devotion and prayer. The church will provide coffee and donuts; feel free to bring any additional breakfast foods with you.



Join us on Wednesday, May 20th for our annual Fish Fry. The meal will begin at 6:00 p.m. and we will eat outside (weather permitting).

Reservations may be made by calling the church office or using the reservation slip in the Sunday bulletin. Don't miss this great meal!

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners 6:00 p.m.

Adults \$6 Children under 10 years \$3.00
Under 5 years "Free"

Reservations must be made no later than noon on Tuesday. Programs are announced in the Sunday bulletin.

Pentecost Sunday

The church will celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, May 31st at 10 a.m. The worship service will celebrate the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the apostles. This fifth Sunday service will have music provided by the Chancel Choir with the organ and the Praise Team. Please join us for this special service. Afterwards, everyone is invited to a pot luck luncheon in Fellowship Hall.



Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost Offering provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. This special offering will be received on Sunday, May 31st.

Cedar Forest Ministry

The Cedar Forest Ministry started over 30 years ago to minister to campers at the Cedar Forest State Park. This worship service is held every Sunday from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. We need volunteers to help with the service. "Greeters" are needed to invite campers to the service; this can be done either Saturday night or Sunday morning. The song leader selects the songs or hymns to be sung. A CD player and CDs are available to use. The worship leader gives a short devotional lasting 10 to 15 minutes. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall if you would like to be involved in this ministry of fellowship and outreach. Many campers look forward to this service every year. If you have any questions, please contact Richard Hartwell.



Thank You to all these volunteers who helped with the April 11th clean-up day:

Phillip Barnes	Mimi Hurd
Brenda Barnes	Olivia Hurd
Madelyn Barnes	Terry McDonald
John Cheetham	Deborah Sanders
Richard Hartwell	Mark Sanders
Ken Hawkins	Jerry Vance

From the Associate Pastor...

I recently had the privilege of being a part of a college conference in Alabama this past month. It was a great conference where we discussed and explored the word “*Calling.*” After the weekend was over, we all agreed that God calls us to do something.

Looking at the creation story in Genesis, on the sixth day God creates humans and lets them have dominion over all the earth. On the sixth day God created us with a purpose to live, work, and care for this wonderful community that God created. So what is your purpose in life and in this community, what did God create you to do?

I believe that God created us to live out two callings in our life. The first calling is our vocational calling. In our vocational calling God calls us to use our gifts to work and live in God’s community. We are all called to different types of vocations, some people are called to be doctors, teachers, engineers, architects, pastors, and the list goes on. It might be hard to realize sometimes in the busyness of life, but our vocational calling is secondary to who God really created us to be, and called us to do in this world.

Our greater calling in this world is not our vocational calling but our Christian calling. This calling is what drives you in everything you do. This calling is what helps you as you grow in your faith, live amongst God’s creation, and how to truly live out your vocational calling. Our Christian calling is a calling within a calling. So how do we live out this Christian calling in our life? How does God want us to live out our purpose on this earth? I believe that one of the simple answers to these questions is Micah 6:8, “What does the Lord require of you? To seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.” So as you find your purpose in life may it be filled with these amazing qualities, seeking justice in all that you do, loving kindness in all that you do, and walking humbly with God in all that you do.

Grace and Peace,
Nick

Congratulations to Mary Margaret Farris who was selected “Teacher of the Year” at Byars Dowdy Elementary School!

Vacation Bible School June 14 - 18

Save the date! Vacation Bible School will be held on June 14-18 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. This year the theme for VBS is ***Crocodile Dock.*** There will be Bible stories, games, crafts, music, and more.

Sounds Game Sunday, June 28th

“Take me out to the ball game, take me out to the crowd...” You know that you want to join us in singing this song together at the Nashville Sounds game on Sunday, June 28th. It’s “Faith Night,” so come and join us for a concert before the game at 4:30 p.m., and then watch the Sounds take on the Oklahoma City Redhawks at 6:00 p.m. Our plan is to get group tickets, so please let Kristy know if you would like to join us by Thursday, June 11th. The cost is \$10 which includes your ticket to the concert, the game, a hot dog, and a drink. What a deal! It also is \$1 Ice Cream Sundae night, mmmmm! So, please come and join us for this great night out to cheer on the Sounds!!

Bell Choir

The Bell Choir will resume practice on Wednesday, May 6th at 5:30 p.m.

April Session Highlights

- Katherine Elizabeth Bone, daughter of Hal and Tracey Bone, will be baptized at the 11:00 service on April 19th.
- The Treasurer reported that March offerings were \$17,666.05.
- The bank balance as of March 31, 2009 was \$38,286.22.
- Dr. Bill S. Howard included a bequest in his will for First Presbyterian Church to be designated for building maintenance.
- Approval was given to have sanctuary chandeliers re-wired.
- The Member Care committee will be asking for birthday and anniversary dates of members.
- The Worship committee reported that the May 31st service will be a combined service at 10:00 with a pot luck lunch to follow.
- The Outreach Committee raised \$1,000 toward the cost of our Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build in special offerings on two Sundays.
- The Youth are planning two fundraisers, a bake sale on Sunday, April 19th and a car wash on Saturday, May 30th.
- The Deacons are planning a yard sale on Saturday, May 2nd to benefit FPC youth programs.

Baptism

Hal and Tracey Bone presented their infant daughter Katherine Elizabeth for baptism on Sunday, April 19th..

Youth Activities

May 3rd– Regular Youth Activities

- 4:45 p.m.- Elementary Fellowship
- 5:45 p.m.- Elementary & Youth Dinner
- 6:15 p.m.- Youth Fellowship

May 10th– Youth Sunday (no afternoon activities)

May 17th– 4:00 pm Putt-Putt
(more details to follow)

May 24th-Regular Youth Activities

- 4:45 p.m.- Elementary Fellowship
- 5:45 p.m.- Elementary & Youth Dinner
- 6:15 p.m.- Youth Fellowship

May 31st—5:00 pm-End of the Year Cookout

Lectionary Readings

May 3	Acts 4: 5-12 1 John 3: 16-24 John 10: 11-18
May 10	Acts 8: 26-40 1 John 4: 7-21 John 15: 1-8
May 17	Acts 10: 44-48 1 John 5: 1-6 John 15: 9-17
May 24	Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26 1 John 5: 9-13 John 17: 6-19
May 31	Acts 2: 1-21 Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Romans 8: 22-27 John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15

Pentecost in the Park

Join us in celebrating
The Birthday of the Church
At Don Fox Park
The offering will go to Habitat for Humanity

Sunday, May 31, 2009
4:00 p.m.

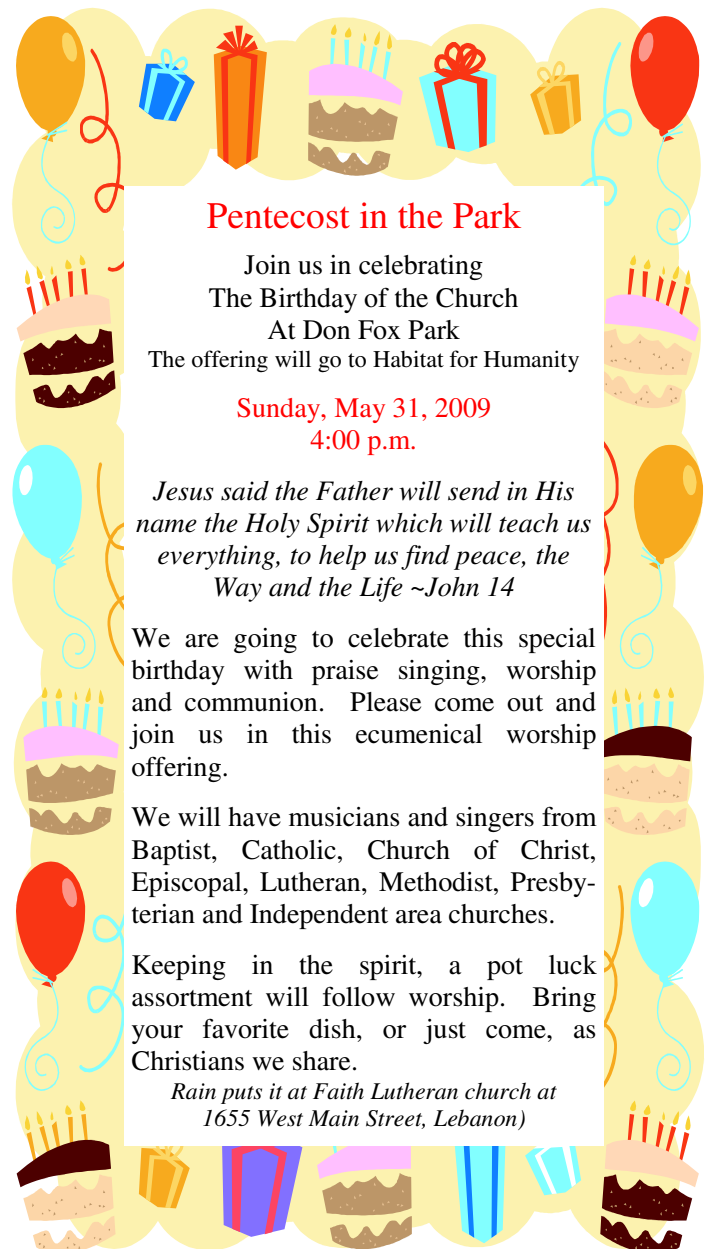
Jesus said the Father will send in His name the Holy Spirit which will teach us everything, to help us find peace, the Way and the Life ~John 14

We are going to celebrate this special birthday with praise singing, worship and communion. Please come out and join us in this ecumenical worship offering.

We will have musicians and singers from Baptist, Catholic, Church of Christ, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Independent area churches.

Keeping in the spirit, a pot luck assortment will follow worship. Bring your favorite dish, or just come, as Christians we share.

*Rain puts it at Faith Lutheran church at
1655 West Main Street, Lebanon)*



May 2009

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Sunday Youth Fellowship</u>				1	2
8:45 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am Church School	4:45 pm Elementary 5:45 pm Dinner 6:15 pm Youth					Deacons' Yard Sale
3 Communion	4 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group 5:30 Building Com 6:00 Christian Ed. 6:00 Member Care 7:00 Outreach	5 9:00 am PreSchool 9:45 am Morning Circle 4:00 pm Knitting	6 5:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Dinner 7:15 Choir	7 9:00 am Preschool 6:30 pm Contemp Presbytery Meeting @ First Franklin	8	9
10 Youth Sunday 7:15 pm Session Meeting	11 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group	12 9:00 am PreSchool 4:00 pm Knitting	13 5:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Dinner 7:15 Choir	14 9:00 am Preschool 6:30 pm Contemp	15	16
17 5:00 pm Deacon's Meeting	18 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group	19 9:00 am PreSchool 4:00 pm Knitting	20 Fish Fry	21 10:00 am Preschool Graduation 6:30 pm Contemp	22	23
				Nick on Study	Leave 21st—24th	
24 4 Cents a Meal	25 9:30 am Morning Sewing Group Office Closed	26 4:00 pm Knitting	27 7:15 Choir	28 6:30 pm Contemp	29 Steepletalk Deadline	30 Youth Car Wash
31 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Combined Service Pentecost						