



For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
Romans 10:13

Church Alive!

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June 2017

From The PASTOR'S DESK



PENTECOST

FRESH ANOINTING FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

Pentecost, one of the Jewish feasts, is celebrated 50 days after Passover. Pentecost is the celebration that brought together Jewish people from all over the then-known world. However, the Day of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2 is remarkable – 120 people came down from an upstairs banquet hall acting unusually strange. It was a dramatic outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the first disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. On that day, the disciples received power to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Pentecost, also known as Whit Sunday in the Christian church, is a favourite day for baptism, and it's thought that because people are often baptized dressed in white, Whit Sunday was probably originally known as 'White Sunday'!

The week of Whit Sunday holds a very important place in the life of the Methodist movement, one of the churches that formed the United Church of Canada in 1925. It was on one Whit Sunday, May 21, 1738, whilst Charles Wesley, the great Methodist hymn writer, was recovering from an illness, that he had an experience of God which gave to him a new spiritual assurance. A few days later on Wednesday, May 24th his brother John, the father of Methodism, was to know the same kind of experience too. John Wesley described that experience in his journal entry with these words:

"I went very unwillingly to a Society in Aldersgate Street where one was reading about Luther's preface to The Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine whilst he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine."

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Sunday, June 18 - 10:30 a.m.
Aboriginal Sunday
with the W.o.W. Band

Sunday, June 25 - 10:15 a.m.
Hymn sing followed by
3rd Sunday after Pentecost service

LOOKING FORWARD

Sundays, July 2 - 30 - 10:30 a.m.
Combined Worship Service at
St. Lambert United Church
with Rev. Emmanuel Ofori

Sundays, Aug 6 - Sept 3 - 10:30 a.m.
Combined Worship Service at
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
with Rev. Dr. Barry Mack

Sunday, Aug 27 - 10:30 a.m.
Ecumenical Service
in the Village Square
(in case of rain worship at SLUC)

Summer Office Hours

June 26 - July 21 inclusive
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

July 24 - Aug 18 inclusive
Office is closed

Aug 21 - Sept 1 inclusive
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sept 5
Regular office hours resume

Please be sure to check the Bulletin
and website for future W&F updates.

This was fresh anointing, a Pentecostal power for him – a turning point in his ministry; a bolder John Wesley emerged from that encounter. Encouraged by the example of his fellow evangelist, George Whitfield, he began to preach in the open air to the great crowds that gathered to hear him. Wesley “could scarcely reconcile” himself to “this strange way of preaching in the fields”. He said: “I have been all my life (till very lately) so tenacious of every point relating to decency and order, that I should have thought the saving of souls almost a sin, if it had not been done in a church.” He was like the average Englishman who believed in civility of social conventions.

John Wesley thus threw away ‘civility’ and preached boldly in the open but attracted the displeasure of the Church of England and many an Anglican Church was subsequently closed to him. Nevertheless, he stood on his father’s grave to preach and later wrote about this in his journal:

“I am well assured that I did far more good to my Lincolnshire parishioners by preaching three days on my father’s tomb than I did by preaching three years in his pulpit ... To this day field preaching is a cross to me, but I know my commission and see no other way of preaching the gospel to every creature.”

Today, this method might appear strange to many of us too, but that was God’s means of conveying His love and grace to that generation (maybe ours too). As Francis McNutt has pointed out, God’s answer to the church in one generation can become a problem in the next or in following generations. For example, in the Old Testament, God’s answer to snake-attack on the people of Israel (Numbers 21:5), where God instructed Moses to set up a bronze serpent on a pole, so that whoever might look at it was healed of a snake-bite (Numbers 21:8-9), was corrupted centuries later. However, when

the young reforming King Hezekiah came to the throne of Judah in the late 8th century BC, “he removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and ... broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it – It was called Nehushtan” (2 Kings 18:4); a symbol of healing had become an object of veneration or worship! God gives fresh anointing to every generation to deal with issues of their time and age. God’s answer for a particular generation in a particular place does not necessarily need to become the only way. Many a church is dying today because we have failed to tap into the Holy Spirit power and have settled for traditions. But, like the brass serpent, it is possible for ‘traditions’ to become the focus of our worship today; when that happens we may go through the motions of ‘church’ Sunday after Sunday, but totally miss the point – miss out on God! Perhaps, when our way of doing God’s business is not yielding the fruits God is expecting from us (Mark 11:12-14, 20-21), it might mean we need some “Wesleyan boldness”, given by the Holy Spirit to do God’s work in God’s own way. The question we need to answer is “What is God blessing that we need to participate in?”

As we celebrate Pentecost in a couple of days, and enjoy springtime and harvest in the days ahead, may we experience the newness these events bring for spiritual awakening in our lives and in the life of our church. Hannah and the children join me to wish you all happy PENTECOST celebrations. Keep the faith, and spread it gently.

I am your Pastor and Friend,

Rev. Emmanuel Kwadwo Ofori

A Father’s Day Prayer

Father’s Day is coming! I found a nice “gift” this year in the form of a prayer on church web resources, suitable for whether you enjoy a great relationship with your dad, have lost him (as I have), never knew him, or have a difficult relationship. May our Heavenly Father bless all earthly fathers this Father’s Day and every day.

“We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives.

Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail.

We ask for Your blessings for them all – and forgiveness where it is needed.

This Father’s Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways – both big and small – they lift their children up.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent – grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches – and the women of our families.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You.

In Your Holy name, O God, we pray. Amen.”

written by Rev. Chuck Currie
(www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/Fathers-Day-Prayers.cfm)

submitted by Kathy Beaudoin

OVER THE YEARS

MAY 12 - MAY 13

THE 50TH ANNUAL ANTIQUES, ARTS & CRAFTS SALE

I could sense a definite “buzz” in the air as I hurried through the Mercille doors early that Friday morning. Workers were busy stacking shelves with varieties of blossoming flowers and lush garden plants, dealers were polishing and arranging their antique and vintage collectables and up the stairs, artisans were making ready their displays of art and handcrafted items. Last minute deliveries were coming in for the Country Kitchen along with more paintings still to be hung. Eager volunteers (workers) were arriving to work the early shift at the United Church Women’s Antique Room, the Antique Furniture Room or the Lunch Room.... There was no time to dally, the tables had to be set and the sandwiches had to be ready because the doors were soon to open for “The 50th Annual Antiques, Arts & Crafts Sale” of St. Lambert United Church.

The United Church Women first sponsored the “South Shore Arts & Handicrafts Exhibit & Sale” in 1968. The purpose of this fundraiser, which fell under the co-chairmanship of Joyce McGee and Alice Jorgensen, was to raise money for the church and various charitable causes. Highlighted that 1st year were handicrafts and paintings by local artisans and artists selling on a 20% commission basis. In addition the UCW Boutique was selling donated handicrafts, gift shop items and homemade bread. If you wanted to learn something fun and interesting like smocking, garbage can painting or leather crafting, then the Exhibition Room was for you with its 20-table display of different handicrafts and live demonstrations given by the crafters. Children had fun getting their hands dirty learning how to make pottery while over in the corner a known local artist was doing fast pencil portraits for a quarter. Time for a break....well it was off to the Tearoom to grab-a-coffee and a doughnut for a mere 15 cents and chat with someone you hadn’t seen in awhile. There was just something for everyone.

The event received great reviews and the following year saw the addition of 10 local antique dealers renting space in Memorial Hall. With antiques now on the program, the UCW undertook to sell antiques on consignment which would prove to be very lucrative in the years to come. In 1972, the event, now a favorite among reputable antique dealers, collectors & artisans as well as the community, was renamed and still today is known as the St. Lambert United Church “Antiques, Arts and Craft Sale”. The success of those early years was just the beginning of what would evolve into an annual event that would span a half-century.

During the mid 70’s the date of the Sale was changed to coincide with Mother’s Day and by the early 80’s a garden nursery had been established providing varieties of spring garden plants. Furniture was still being sold on consignment along with donations and the UCW Church Antiques (and collectables) was now selling only donated pieces. With the number of dealers and artisans growing, attendance increasing, profits would show a substantial gain from 6,500 dollars in 1971 to well over 25,000 dollars by 1996. Over the years, the AA&C Sale has always been a great source of financial support for the Church and remains its most profitable fundraiser.

In the end, the key that determines the success of a project is the team that makes it happen. Although organizing a Sale of this proportion requires a lot of work and involves months of preparation the AA&C Sale Committee has proven to always be up for the challenge. Congratulations to all the chairpersons, committee members, and volunteers who over the years have dedicated their time and efforts to make the AA&C Sale a continued success. Deserving of special mention is Dale Wallace who co-chaired from 1976 until 2006 and still today serves on the committee. A special thanks to chairperson Sharon Wallace and the AA&C committee for making this year’s event special, helping us realize how far we have come and how much we can accomplish working together.

The tables are stacked, the antiques are wrapped and locked away, the dealers are packing their trucks....what a great weekend... let’s make it a date and meet again next year at our 51st.

Susan Bejba



KIDSTEAM NEWS

"The end of the Sunday School year leads us to reflect on the year that has past. The youth of St. Lambert United remained an integral part of the church life and worship this year, offering valuable leadership, contagious energy and novel insights. They participated in several worship services, including the Easter celebration, in addition to leading the entire Christmas Eve Family Service all on their own. Large groups participated in events held in the evenings, including a "Discussion and Games night" and a very popular "Movie Night". The kids and youth leaders worked hard putting together a second youth-led worship service that was held on June 11, during which all Sunday school participants were recognized for their efforts and participation this year. The kids lead the service, performing a musical presentation, and then hosted the annual End-of-Year BBQ following the service."

As the revamping of our "Happy Family Room" continues, the CD committee invites you to make a donation towards the library selections, for both adult and children.. We are looking for new books to help fill our shelves. Books of a religious nature, all religions. In light of building bridges and the TRC, books by Indigenous authors or about Indigenous subjects are most welcome. Some suggested authors are Wab Kinew, Richard Wagamese, Joseph Boyden, Thomas King, Sheila Watt-Cloutier, and Katherena Vermette, to name but a few. I can supply you with a list of many authors or titles. If you would prefer to make a financial donation, please make your cheque payable to the church, clearly marked CD library, and we will make the book purchase for you. All books should come through me directly, so I can put a book plate inside, acknowledging your kind gift. If you need or want more information, feel free to contact me directly at **450-462-9152**.

Thanks for your support in building a new, and valuable, learning resource.
Elizabeth Britton
Co-chair CD

The Village Ringers and Jerome Savoie are hosting a BBQ and Bell Concert in St. Lambert United Church on Friday, June 16 at 6pm.

Tickets are \$20 Children \$10

If you just want to come to the concert at 7:30 in the sanctuary--- Tickets are \$15

Jennifer Kurtz has some in the office.

Reservations can be made at jfallon00@gmail.com or at 450-550-9851 (mornings or evenings)

Deadline: Tues. June 13

News from the Council

- Rev. Emmanuel Ofori organised two one-day retreat sessions with Council members so we could reflect on work that has been entrusted in us as Council, to sharpen our tools and to look at our Mission Statement more closely.
- The fire alarm upgrade was successfully completed, which means we now conform to the city's requirements.
- Many discussions were held over the last few months with regards to the current financial position of the church and ways to achieve a balanced budget with reduced funds.
- Several remits from the Presbytery have been discussed, completed and approved as required.
- Our Harbour office staff is renting space in room 25.
- An application was sent to the Conseil du Patrimoine Religieux Québec (CPRQ) for a grant to do much-needed repair to the Sanctuary. The estimated total cost is \$188,388 (\$CDN).
- Rev. Emmanuel Ofori's contract was extended for an additional three months, until the end of September.
- It was agreed that our congregation will host a workshop or session and invite other United Churches to view "Light a Spark" videos made by the Quebec Presbytery. They are available on their website.
- Pictures of Kent Chown and Sally Meyer will be placed with our other ministers.

The Church Alive! Newsletter is published quarterly and is distributed primarily by e-mail. If you are wanting to receive the Newsletter please make sure the Church has your e-mail address. Submissions or suggestions for future issues are most welcome! Please contact us at slucnewsletter@videotron.ca