

Pip's Squeak

May 17, 2015

Pentecost is Coming!!

As I write these words in anticipation of one of the most spectacular moments in the Christian church—Pentecost Sunday—I am deeply aware of the fragmented way our Church calendar attempts to engage us in the unfolding story of the Resurrection, Ascension and receiving the Holy Spirit. Let me attempt to bring the story together...

Throughout the first 40 days after Jesus' Easter Resurrection, we heard gospel stories of eye-witness accounts of the Risen Lord...culminating in a moment the church has come to call Ascension Day, described most vividly by Luke in Acts 1:1-11, and Luke 24: 50-53, and depicted in Christian art as in this painting *Christi Himmelfahrt* by [Gebhard Fugel](#), c. 1893



What a beautiful sight for the disciples who were there alongside Jesus in his earthly ministry, who witnessed his horrific death upon a cross, and then 3 days later saw him in a new form, resurrected, suddenly appearing to believers walking along the road, hiding in closed rooms...now they see him depart in a lovely gesture of blessing and peace, opening the heavens for all to receive confidence that there truly is more to life than the challenges of this earthly world.

But before Jesus actually raised himself up into heaven he gave a promise to his beloved: he would send another, an “advocate”, the Spirit of Truth, God’s Holy Spirit, who would come to indwell ALL who open their hearts and minds to God’s eternal love. And this “Holy Spirit Advocate” would continue to teach, guide, inform, inspire and lead ALL humanity into loving relationship with God and each other in Christ.

Pentecost was (and is) a Jewish Holy Week, known as “Shavout” or, “Feast of Weeks”... a harvest festival celebrated 50 days after the second day of Passover—the Jewish holiday which Jesus was celebrating when he was taken captive and put on trial. Just as early Christians, who were originally Jewish, saw the Easter Resurrection event as an outgrowth of the Jewish Passover, so, too, did early Christians place the coming of the Holy Spirit upon ALL who came to Jerusalem for Shavout, for Pentecost. Some say that we Christians celebrate Pentecost as the “birth of the

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Church”, as that is when God’s Holy Spirit was poured out on ALL, in ALL languages and cultures—and the Body of Christ, the Church, had life breathed into it by “tongues of fire” of the Holy Spirit.

When we celebrate Pentecost here at St. Philip’s we enjoy having people read the story from Acts which describes this “tongues of fire” phenomenon, giving the disciples the ability to “speak in other tongues” so that ALL who visited Jerusalem that day would hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. If you know how to read in another language, and can offer your “tongue” to read in church, won’t you please let us know? We would love to include your voice!



This Pentecost, May 24, we will also be celebrating the baptism of one of our youngest members, Ewen Bertrand Roach. Following the 10:00 service we will have an all parish potluck right here, as the Body of Christ gathered in St. Philip’s!!!

Peace to you in Christ, Pastor Mary Blessing

May 24: Pentecost Sunday,
please bring a main dish, salad, side,
dessert and/or drinks to church, as
we will celebrate the church’s birth-
day after the 10 a.m. service with a
Pentecost Potluck.

Valley Churches United: Emergency

This past week I and Elizabeth had a chance to meet in the parish office with Dave Mills, the Executive Director of Valley Churches United Missions. Our parish has worked with VCUM often in the past; the time has come for us to consider renewing our efforts.



VCUM serves about 500 households a month in our two valleys, but Dave reports that while their client volume is growing rapidly, their store of supplies is dwindling. Their special drives during the holiday season bring in lots of donations; but by late Spring those goods are usually dwindling; this year all of it is already gone!

I’d like to suggest that everyone could participate before the summer holidays are upon us. Financial contributions, in a marked envelope or a check with memo line designating “VCUM”, would be very welcome! So let’s meet the **Food Challenge!**

Fran Soulé

Food Challenge:

Let's fill 2 grocery sacks/week all summer long -
1 for VCUM & 1 for our Food Pantry



Every time you shop, pick up non-perishable foods & bring them to church throughout the summer. Or you might want to bring a single, large donation one week. Some will go to St. Philip's Food Pantry and some we'll send on their way to VCUM. Those of us with plenty can share with those who do not have enough.

They will know we are Christians by our love.

...but when did we see you hungry, Lord?

On Saturday, May 30, St. Philip's is scheduled to provide a meal for the Faith Family Shelter. We need a group to sign up for this ministry and then we need ongoing sign ups for the second and the fifth Saturday of the month. The meal should include a main dish, salad, and bread, dessert optional. Right now we are preparing for about 16 people but we will get as exact a count as we can before the weekend in question. There is a sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer but if you could let Kaye, Fran, or Mary know, as well, that would be helpful. Thank you for all you do.

Kaye Olivier, Fran Soulé

Jesus answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Luke 3:11

This Week: May 17 - 23

TODAY: Youth Confirmation, 4-5:30
Wed., 10:30, Theology Book Group, Sct
Thu., 5 pm, Food Pantry, Foyer
Fri., 10:30, Meditation, Sanctuary
Sat., 5 pm, Overnight Guests, Parish

**Save the
Date!!**

*The Association of Faith Communities
cordially invites you to*

support our
housing goals
for shelter
members

*Seymour Discovery Center and Longs Marine Lab
Fund Raising Benefit for
Faith Community Shelter*

Saturday June 13, 2015

5 - 9 pm

100 Shaffer Rd

Santa Cruz, Ca 95060

Silent Auction
Live Auction
Wine
Entertainment
Food



All are welcome
Free Entry !!
many ways to donate!

Save the Date:

May 30:, 5-7 pm, Confirmation Class Dinner, Sanctuary

June 7: Bishop Mary's visit, confirmations, refreshments after church.

June 13: Faith Community Shelters Fund Raiser, 5-9 pm.

June 20: All Church Rummage Sale. Save your stuff!

February 5-7, 2016: Annual Winter Retreat at Zephyr Point.

Coming soon to a pool near you: St. Philip's Annual Pool Party