

Waiting for Pentecost (Acts 1 and 2)

The disciples felt alone. Again they entered a period when their teacher and companion of the three previous years was not with them. Easter Sunday had passed. For a short while they had spent time with the risen Lord. Watching him ascend they were given another strange instruction to “stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” What in the world did this mean? How would this help the loss of their friend they were surely feeling? Jesus had presented them with many new concepts and experiences never encountered in history. They were about to meet another. At this point Luke ends his gospel and starts Acts with Jesus saying “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you”.

The disciples spent their time in the temple blessing God. The apostles were together in the room upstairs where they were staying. The eleven were devoting themselves to prayer along with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. Acts records as their one piece of business replacing the traitor Judas Iscariot with Matthias.

Then the day of Pentecost arrived fifty days after Easter. Acts presents the arrival of the Holy Spirit among the disciples as “like the rush of a violent wind” and “Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them”. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability – to the point that they were accused of being drunk.

At this moment Peter address the crowd denying the accusation of drinking because it was 9:00am. Led by the Spirit received that day he made five points in his preaching: 1) “a man attested to you by God among you” 2) “you have crucified and killed” 3) “But God raised him up” and “This Jesus God raised up” 4) “God has made him both Lord and Messiah” 5) “you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”.

That day the Church increased by adding 3,000 converts to the original 120. The power of the Holy Spirit given to the body of Christ, the church, enabled the church to grow significantly by witnessing in Jerusalem, and later in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Throughout history God has always been with his people. In Old Testament times in a pillar of cloud during the day and in a pillar of fire at night, in the tabernacle and later the temple. Jesus the Messiah was named Emmanuel – “God with us”. After his ascension He sent what the Father promised and the Holy Spirit arrived on that first Pentecost to dwell with God’s people – Christ’s Church. He is the Spirit of truth, teacher and reminder of everything Jesus has said to us.

The Holy Spirit came to be with us forever; a comforter, helper and advocate.



Pentecost Offering

for Children at Risk, Youth, and Young Adults

Trinity will take up the Pentecost Offering during the Worship Service on May 27th. The children will be using the red "church" banks during their preparations. Offering envelopes will be in the bulletin that Sunday also.

The Offering

At Pentecost, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit as a bringer of new life. With the Spirit's coming, we no longer need to settle for business as usual but can know the transforming, redeeming love of God that makes the impossible possible.

The Pentecost Offering is one of the special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). When you give to the Pentecost Offering you help bring God's transforming and redeeming love to children at risk, guide and nurture young people's growing faith and provide opportunities for young adults to become spiritual leaders within the PC(USA).

Our theme this year is "So I send you," spoken by Jesus in John 20:21. Jesus reminds us that God sent him to heal a world in desperate need of a Savior. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called by God to be the "sent-ones" and heal a hurting world in Jesus' name. Your gifts to the Pentecost Offering help make that calling a reality in the lives of children, youth and young adults.

Thank you

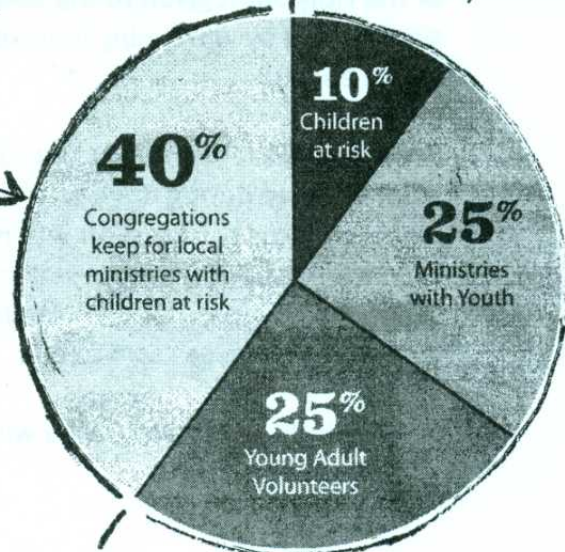
for your gift!

How it is Used

The Pentecost Offering provides a way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth and young adults. The benefits can be seen all around us. Congregations are finding new ways to minister to children at risk in their communities. General Assembly programs are advocating for children and providing leadership development opportunities for youth and young adults.

For details on how these funds are spent, visit www.pcusa.org/pentecost.

Recently Trinity has supported the CASS-MIND child tutoring and mentoring program with lunches at four meetings and provided items for the Girl Scouts to assemble "busy boxes" for children at Salvation Army services.



Mission Committee

Trinity United Presbyterian Church
830 Military Road
Zanesville, OH 43701
Unicameral Session Minutes
For February 19th, 2012

On Sunday, February 19, 2012, at 11:45AM we met in the Chapel for devotions led by Elder Richard Patterson. At the conclusion of the devotions and prayer, we moved to the High School classroom for the business portion of the meeting. Our Moderator Rev. Floyd Starr called us to order and service. A quorum was declared with 12 Elders present.

Clerk's Report: The agenda for February 19, 2012 was approved along with the minutes from the January 15, 2012 meeting.

The clerk contacted the ZPD regarding information about the Gabriel Bros robbery on January 1, 2012.

Communications received include a notice of rate increase from Network Solutions, our internet provider; a letter from Prosecuting Attorney D. Michael Haddox regarding the sentencing of Scott E. Roberts; a fund availability report from the Muskingum County Community Foundation for the Gale-Trinity United Presbyterian Church Fund.

The following facility use requests were approved:

- Amanda Allison – requests use of the Youth Room for a Tutoring group on February 20, 2012 from 5pm-9pm. Approx. 20 person expected.

- Mindy Patterson – requests use of the Sanctuary and parlor for a Vocal Recital on June 3, 2012 starting at 2pm.

- Tina Moore's Kids Stuff Sale is rescheduled to be held the week of April 22 – 28. There will be a pre-sale event for people who bring items for sale on that Wednesday. This time she would like to open the doors to all and charge \$2.00 to shop. The entrance fees collected would then be donated to the church.

Moderators Report: The following is the Pastor's report to Session:

The piano in the Youth Room went to Mike Ward. The Ash Wednesday service will be held in the chapel at 7PM and communion will be taken by intinction. The Good Friday service is being planned now.

Jim Ardrey is in the hospital and Dorothy Bailey is in hospice. Please keep both in your prayers.

Rev. Starr announced that he will be retiring on April 30, 2012. Due to Social Security regulations his last day will be April 15, when his contract ends. The remaining time will be his unused vacation. He will be meeting with Rev. Morrison and General Presbyter Deborah Rundlett regarding the assignment of a moderator.

Deacon Report: Minutes received.

Presbytery: The next Presbytery meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2012.

Old Business: None

Trinity United Presbyterian Church

Session Minutes for February 19th, 2012

Worship and Music Report: 81 received communion on February 3, 2012. On the evening of Palm Sunday the Country Choir will sing. On March 9 the Otterbein Choir will sing at Central Trinity United Methodist church. The Maundy Thursday service will be held in the chapel at 7PM. The Easter Sunrise service will be held at 8AM in the sanctuary.

The committee presented a list of musical instruments owned by the church, along with estimated values. The list was compiled to aid in the insurance replacement value assessment.

Outreach: No report.

Christian Education: The committee recommended the following policy:
Level 1 Snow Emergency – use best judgment on attending church; Level 2 or higher Snow Emergency – there would be no church services of any kind.
Motion Approved.

The Christian Education Committee recommends the approval of a safety and accountability policy by which persons in the church building during the Sunday School Hour be in attendance at the age appropriate, church approved Sunday School classes; and persons in the church building during the Worship Hour be in the sanctuary. To that end the parlor curtain will be closed unless the parlor area is needed for overflow seating.

The motion was made and an extended discussion followed. The motion was approved with two dissenting.

Personnel: No Report

Nominating & Membership: No Report

Finance: The monthly finance report was presented. The balance figure for January was negative. The 2012 Operating Budget was presented for approval. With pledges down this year, it is a deficit budget. The question was asked how the AEP rate changes will affect our budget, but the answer is not known at this time. Motion approved.

Building and Grounds: No Report

Missions: The committee recommends that Trinity:

1. Take up the One Great Hour of Sharing and Pentecost offerings and remit through Presbytery.
2. Participate in the ServeFest again this year and volunteer for a project in Kidzville at Riverside Park. Event date is August 25, 2012.
3. Conduct a Lenten Food Drive for the food pantry at Eastside Community Ministry. Grocery bags with suggested items listed would be distributed by the children to the congregation at the worship service on March 11, 2012. Donations returned in the grocery bags would be collected in the Narthex on March 18th and 25th.
4. Collect food offerings in support of a tutoring program by Westminster PC New Concord and held in the community room at John McIntire Public Library. Thirty children are expected at the event. We would provide bag lunches and a drink for the events on March 19, March 26 and April 2, 2012.

Motion approved.

