



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 27

June 2023

Reflections on Pentecost



**God Isn't Done with Us Yet -
Rev. Pamela Dolan, Episcopal
Church of St. Martin, Davis, CA**

The Feast of Pentecost is sometimes referred to as the birthday of the Church, because it is when the Holy Spirit descended in dancing flames and a roaring wind onto a ragtag bunch of believers, knitting them together as one body with a common purpose and mission. Before that day, there were individuals who followed Jesus, but there was no “church” per se. So Pentecost reminds us that we are not primarily individuals on our own faith journeys, but people whose identities are fused with one another through Christ....

Virtually every time we celebrate a sacrament in the

Church we call upon the Holy Spirit to make it happen. It is not something we can do ourselves, nor is it something we can command the Spirit to do for us. We are co-creators with God, working in harmony and cooperation with the Spirit. At the Eucharist we ask God to “send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts.” At Baptism we ask the Holy Spirit to sustain the person being baptized in a new life of grace, giving them inquiring and discerning hearts, the courage to will and persevere, a spirit to know and love God, and the gift of joy and wonder in all God’s works. This is the power we are invoking today....

So that’s who we are, that’s the identity that we celebrate on this day of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church: a diverse family, meant to mirror the diversity of God’s creation, and a reconciling community of the reconciled. And we have some work to do! Reconciliation does not mean making nice. It means doing the hard, hard work of going out into the dry and broken places in our lives and in the world and seeing where there are seeds of understanding, and watering those seeds with gratitude and hope and curiosity until a relationship of mutuality begins to sprout. It

Worship Services

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m., in-person and via Zoom

(Zoom connection information at the end of newsletter.)

Events

Good Shepherd Thrift Store at Old Stone Church’s Flea Market, Saturday, June 10, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Carol’s Kitchen, Saturday, June 10, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

means finding the little cracks where some light peeks into the deep and terrifying darkness and pouring honesty and truth-telling through those cracks, until the darkness is overcome by the light.

For the last 50 days we have been telling the story of Easter, of new life, of an empty cross and an empty tomb. But today we come to the story of Pentecost, and it is only at Pentecost that we can more fully understand where the empty tomb and the empty cross are pointing—they are pointing everywhere, because the power of God is everywhere. At Pentecost we are reminded of what happens when the Spirit of God is set loose, is released into the world, no longer confined to a particular place or person. We

don't have to go to the Temple, or to a mountain top; we don't have to talk a certain way or read certain books or have any special qualifications to be in relationship with God, because God's Spirit is everywhere, doing wild and unpredictable things, shaking the foundations of our ordered lives and turning the world upside down and inside out.

The good news, my friends, is that the Spirit isn't done with us yet. The Spirit that hovered over Creation and made Leviathan for the fun of it: that Spirit isn't done raising us up, bringing us up out of our graves of disappointment and despair. The story of Pentecost is in large part the story of us being empowered to continue the work of God—not to complete it, but to continue it. We are a people called to come together and let the Spirit work in us and through us. Whether we are young or old or in between, whether we are male or female or something else, whatever our race, our background, our political persuasions: we are all called to come together to dream dreams and see visions, and to help turn those dreams and visions into reality. When the world tries to bury our hope, it is the Holy Spirit that plants seeds of courage and resistance in our hearts, it is the Holy Spirit that waters those seeds with our tears and our prayers, and the Holy Spirit that will help us be part of shaping a new heaven and a new earth.

God is not done with us yet.
Thanks be to God. Amen

Around the Church

Sunday, May 14
Musicians (l to r), Dr.
Jeremiah Martin,
Barbara Coulombe,
Tony Lamberti



Summer Fun Raffle
Basket at the Good
Shepherd Thrift Store



Spring Training at Christ
Cathedral in Hartford.
(Look, no pews!)



Volunteers Needed - June 10

Please contact Carol Link-Ude if you can help with Carol's Kitchen and Bake Sale, 9-12, on the church's front lawn or Diane Villano if you can assist at Old Stone Church's annual Flea Market, 9-2, 251 Main Street.

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Sails of the Soul,
Kenneth Baker

1. The Gift of Wisdom helps us to judge rightly concerning God and divine things through their ultimate and highest causes.
2. The Gift of Understanding helps the human mind to penetrate into the deeper meaning of revealed truths, such as the Trinity & Incarnation.
3. The Gift of Knowledge helps the human intellect to judge rightly concerning created things and how they are related to eternal life and Christian perfection.
4. The Gift of Counsel helps the human mind

to judge rightly in particular events what ought to be done in view of the supernatural ultimate end of human life.

5. The Gift of Fortitude strengthens the will for the practice of virtue, with invincible confidence of overcoming any dangers or difficulties that may arise.
6. The Gift of Piety arouses in the will a filial love for God as Father, and a sentiment of love for all as our brothers and sisters and children of the same Heavenly Father.
7. The Gift of Fear of the Lord perfects the virtue of hope by motivating the individual to avoid sin out of reverential fear of God. It also assists the virtue of temperance by helping to moderate emotions of anger, gluttony, and lust.

May Vestry Summary

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, June 18th after the 9:00 a.m. service in the library and via Zoom.

Worship - Supply Clergy continue to be scarce for the summer months. The results of the Communion practice poll is that we will continue with the individual cups although we

will also discuss with any supply clergy how they feel about wafer intinction for those having difficulty with the cups.

Building & Grounds - The Grief Support group is coming back for another eight-week session in the library. Barbara P. has put up thermal drapes there to mitigate the hot summer sun. One of the AA groups is going to give the North Lounge floor a good cleaning. This summer we are hoping to get some volunteers to paint the sills on the outside lower windows.

Feast & Festivities - The first Carol's Kitchen sale was a big success raising about \$250. The next one is scheduled for June 10 and will be held under a tent on the front lawn to attract more notice. If you feel inclined to provide additional baked goods for sale, they would be welcome and can be given to Carol.

Communications Committee - The Communications Committee has put together a "Thank You For Visiting Us" package for Sunday visitors. If you are ushering, please remember to ask guests to sign the "Visitors" book. (Hopefully with their complete address.)

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 

Juneteenth and the Call to Remember

June 15, 2022
Racial Reconciliation
By Willis Foster Sr. and Edna Johnston

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when U.S. General Gordon Granger read General Orders No. 3 to the people of Galveston, Texas. He announced: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free." With this announcement, all enslaved people in the United States knew they were free.

By the first half of the 20th century, most celebrations outside Texas disappeared, and U.S. history books classified American slavery as something to be acknowledged but not examined. This changed in the latter part of the 20th and the early 21st centuries, as Black people made other Americans grapple with the reality that African-American history and culture is a central part of U.S. history. In 2021, June 19th was formally recognized as a national holiday.

Father Joseph Green, Jr., the canon evangelist of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia, has said on many occasions that Black Americans are "an Exodus folk." He goes on to explain: "We identify with the enslaved children of Israel whose cries were heard by God and were freed by God's mighty hand. Juneteenth speaks to God hearing the cries of enslaved people in America and setting into motion all that went into the freedom of enslaved people in the United States."

Juneteenth reminds us that we must try to understand and

talk about American slavery and its legacies. This includes talking and teaching about slavery in our history books, churches, and political discourse. It means remembering the histories of those who were enslaved here in North America and those who have continued to experience and confront racial injustice.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Petersburg, a church that was started in 1867 by formerly enslaved Virginians, has taken this mission to heart by digitizing its records, including its first church register of baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals, and records of the generations of Episcopalians that have followed. Their records are now part of a growing, searchable, digital archive where one can "see" our ancestors living their church lives. The digital archive is part of the work of the Episcopal Project, whose mission is to collect, digitize, maintain, and share the records and stories of congregations and other Episcopal entities.

Honoring Juneteenth reminds us that we must preserve and learn from the stories of those who lived through slavery and its aftermath here in North America. This remembrance's purpose is for all God's children living today, and, in the future, to know the stories of those who came before them.

The Reverend Canon Willis Foster Sr. is the canon for diversity in the Diocese of

Southern Virginia. Edna Johnston is a member of the Church of the Holy Comforter in Richmond, Virginia, and the principal of History Matters, LLC.

This year Juneteenth falls on June 19.



**Episcopal
Church in CT
(ECCT)**

Spring Training & Gathering 2023

Online and in-person Spring Training courses were held last month. Included here are brief summaries provided by several of our vestry members and parishioners of the sessions they attended.

**Audrey Sundwall
Archives & Record
Management: Memory/
Identify/Transformation** - by
Greg Farr

This workshop was a quick overview of the types of records a parish should keep, and how to store them. Greg Farr suggested that each parish should have a Record Management System, guided by a Parish Records mission statement. He had suggestions about how to group and preserve the records. He offered the ECCT Archive as a source of help when parishes undertake a project in this area. I was especially interested in this course because the parish needs to complete the ECCT Resolution #7 Directive, which involved "taking steps to discover and

document historic complicity in racism in our parish and communities."

**Audrey Sundwall
Building Power for Racial
Equity & Justice** - by Kari Nicewander and The Rev. Cn. Ranjit Mathews This was a call to action for Christians to help dismantle the structures of racism by looking at Planning and Zoning in our towns. We heard a brief history of Zoning Laws in Connecticut towns, and the way those laws have kept people with low incomes stuck in the cities of Connecticut, unable to utilize the opportunities provided by other communities in the state. Kari explained Connecticut House Bill #6633 (the fair share bill), which mandates an assessment of the need for more affordable housing affordable housing in all Connecticut communities. The bill is before the state legislature now.

**Astrid Swanson
Journey to the Holy Land.**
The session was outstanding. The narrator had been there twice and knew her information.

**Barbara Coulombe
Journey to the Holy Land**
This presentation was wonderful! It was a trip with a group of Episcopalians led by Bishops Ian and Laura. The photos were fantastic and the tour included many churches that have been built over the historic places where Jesus journeyed during his life on earth. I especially enjoyed the

narrator's comments linking the holy places with the past to the present day. Considering how we travel great distances today, it was revealing how close, for example, Bethlehem was to Jerusalem. (5 miles). But, unlike us, Jesus and his followers walked everywhere through those rocky desert lands!

Barbara Parsons

The Physicality of Grace (in-person). The workshop taught us skills to give Grace to ourselves. We were encouraged to really pay attention to what our bodies were telling us about mostly stress and constructive ways to deal with it. It was very helpful.

Encouraging Words about the Holy Spirit

Audrey Sundwall

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord - and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears.

Isaiah 11:2-3

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever.

John 14:16

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you

trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:1-2

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 14:26

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen

1 Peter 4:10-11

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction.

1 Thessalonians 1:4-5a

History Nook - The Wood Carvings

By Astrid Swanson



The beautiful wood carving on the front left wall of the nave in Christ and The Epiphany Church was done as a memorial to my father-in-law Sven Frederick Swanson (a.k.a. Fritz) and was funded by donations made in his memory. He was 73 when he died of cancer in 1972. He was very active in the church and at one point was Senior Warden. He was also a Mason and was Mason of the Year in 1971. The carving is of Jesus the Fisherman and was chosen because my father-in-law loved to fish. He also loved working with wood and doing carpentry work. We don't know what kind of wood it is. When my mother-in-law (Elma) died 22 years later we had a new plaque done and added her name onto the memorial.

This carving was designed in Boston by a company named Morehouse and was actually carved in Italy. It was too expensive to be done in the United States.



The carving in the chapel was done for my husband Ron, after his death in 2012 at the age of 72. It was carved by his wood carving teacher Jim, from Fair Haven in 2013. I chose Jesus the Carpenter because Ron loved to work with his hands, loved being a carpenter, and was anxious to tackle projects involving wood. This carving is made of bass wood. Ron was often seen in our backyard and at the beach with his carving materials. He carved many gifts for people. I know he would have loved this carving.

A Prayer for Transition and Guidance

O Lord, you are with us in every transition and change. With your deep compassion, presence and abounding love ease our anxiety. We pray for our parish family, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our

search, and daring in our faith. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Help us accept change as a gift of your direction for our journey in this transition. Instill in us a vision of the church's family; that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Editor's Note: my apologies! I inadvertently omitted May birthdays and anniversaries in last month's newsletter and have included them here.



- May 2 - Melanie Miller
- May 5 - Pat Walters
- May 8 - Audrey Sundwall
- May 11 - Diane Villano
- May 13 - Judy Randall
- May 20 - Geneva O'Donnell
- June 3 - Rev. Mary Anne Osborn
- June 12 - Ron Blevins
- June 17 - Kathy Alison
- June 28 - Richard Schiavone



- May 19 - Erick & Diane Villano
- May 30 - Tony & Jill Lamberti
- June 26 - George & Barbara Coulombe

Intercessory Prayers

Aiden & the Guida Family, Alexis, Alfred, Andrew, Barbuschak Family, Bob H., Bohdan and Family in Ukraine, Bradlee Kurland, Brandon, Carol Ude, Daniel Hall, David & Irene, Diana, Diane Link, Dick, Doreen St. Germaine, Doris C., Ed, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Faith, Fran Zella, Francesca, Geneva O'Donnell, Jack Uberti & Holly Chickos, Jack and Jan McDonald, Jay Medlyn, Jay W., Jim R. & Family, Joan Shaffner, John Smith, Joyce Aurelius, Kris, Lauren, Leah S., Lucas Sundwall, Mark Pilletere, Matt R., Mike, Minogue Family, Nicole C., Pat Walters, Rachael, Ray Sundwall, Sr., Sallie Alexander, Stanley Rogalski, Susan Diaz, Tim, Tricia Clearwater, Turiano Family

To submit names for the Intercessory Prayers list please call or email the church office. Names will be kept on the list for three months unless longer time is requested.

Next Issue

The deadline for the July/August issue is **June 20**. Submissions can be sent to newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310 or email christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

Worship Schedule 9:00 a.m.

	June 4, 2023	June 11, 2023	June 18, 2023	June 25, 2023
Service	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Presider / Officiant	Cathi Bencken	Ray Clearwater	Andrew Osmun	Barbara Parsons
Crucifer	George Coulombe		George Coulombe	
Acolyte	George Coulombe		Diane Villano	
Lay Reader	Audrey Sundwall	Judy Herzman	Terry Osmun	Pat Walters
Ushers	Wendy Bellmore	Audrey Sundwall	Ray Clearwater	Astrid Swanson
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz
Lead Counter	Susan Shultz	Astrid Swanson	Pat Walters	George Coulombe
Assistant Counter	Ray Clearwater	Fred Bowden	Melanie Miller	Audrey Sundwall

Clergy, Vestry and Staff

Priest-in-charge	Open
Senior Warden	George Coulombe
Junior Warden	Barbara Parsons (Outreach)
Treasurer	Susan Shultz (Technology)
Clerk	Gail Beck
Vestry Member	Ray Clearwater
Vestry Member	Carol Link-Ude (Altar Guild; Hospitality & Fund Raising)
Vestry Member	Audrey Sundwall (Communications)
Vestry Member	Astrid Swanson
Vestry Member	Diane Villano (Newsletter)
Music Director	Barbara Coulombe
Parish Administrator	Diane Rowley

To connect by computer, enter: <https://tinyurl.com/3kbvnbb4>, or click on the link on our webpage: www.ChristandTheEpiphany.org

To join by phone call: 929-436-2866, Meeting ID = 763 909 4733, Password = 39

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:45 a.m. on Sunday.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin, please contact Diane Rowley in the office at 203-467-2310 or christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 860-669-1104 or sbshultz@gmail.com.

Christ and The Epiphany Church

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Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship
In-person with social distancing and optional masking