

St. John's Announcements

May 19, 2024

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Today is the Feast of Pentecost which is one of the great feasts of the year. Though Easter and Passover have a relationship, and though Hanukah and Christmas sometimes overlap, Pentecost is the only Christian Feast to have grown directly out of a Jewish feast. The disciples were celebrating Pentecost at the first “Christian” Pentecost when the gift of the Holy Spirit was given. Pentecost is a Greek term meaning fiftieth. Today we celebrate Pentecost 7 weeks after Easter Sunday or on the 50th day inclusive of Easter Sunday. The Jewish people celebrate Pentecost on the 50th day after Passover. The Hebrew name for the feast is *Shavuot*. In English, it is usually called the Feast of Weeks. The Feast also celebrates the giving of the Torah (law or instruction) to Moses. The feast included all night Bible Studies. Pentecost was also a great pilgrimage festival in the Second Temple period, so people from India to Spain came to Jerusalem. While Passover was the major pilgrimage feast for those living in Israel, for those who lived at great distances, Pentecost was preferred. The weather was just much better for traveling later in the Spring. The weather is also the reason why Pentecost was the great baptismal feast in the Church of England. While Easter was preferred by most Christians, the weather in England could be very chilly in the early Spring (something New Englanders can have sympathy with). Baptismal fonts were often large enough to stand in, so the baptized would become very wet. It made sense to wait for the temperature to be more comfortable for such a joyous celebration. This coupling of the feast with baptism’s white garments is probably the reason the feast became known as Whitsunday. Which was only officially changed in our communion in 1979.

Blessings, Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

5/22 - Eucharist @
10:30am

5/29 - Bible Study @
12:30pm

Happy Birthday!

Dr. Tom Army
Michael Collier
Ruth Hoffman
Laura Harshly
Christina Amende



Lunch Bunch Update

On May 2nd the St. John's Lunch Bunch met for the first time in over 4 years. I am pleased to share that it was an overwhelming success. Many established and newer members of St. John's shared in fellowship an amazing array of potluck dishes. Thank you to all who attended and helped with clean up. A special thank you to my fellow coordinator Diane Gutzmer. Diane and I look forward to seeing our fellow potluckers on Thursday June 6th!

Chris Emery

Bible Study

On Wednesday, May 29th at 12:30pm in St. Mary's Hall, we will continue with the Acts of the Apostles. The book tells the story of the Apostolic Age of the early church. We are introduced to Paul and James, the brother of our Lord, as well as hearing how those former fishermen became great leaders of the church. I hope you can join us in-person or through Zoom. You may get a zoom link by contacting the Rev. Marc.

Accessibility Project at St. John's

The Vestry recently voted unanimously to proceed with design work and a cost estimate to provide better accessibility to our church building. It has been a longstanding goal for St. John's for more than 10 years and a great deal of Vestry discernment has gone into this decision. We believe our faith, our desire to extend hospitality to everyone that comes through our doors, and our current financial strength have led us to this unique opportunity to improve accessibility and welcome all who visit our church.

Plans are almost done for improvements to both the upper and lower parking lot entrances to the church, the addition of two handicapped-accessible bathrooms on the sanctuary level, and a lift that allows handicapped access to church undercroft. DRAFT plans for the planned addition are available for viewing in St. Mary's Hall (on wall opposite the large bank of windows) and can also be seen electronically on our website. There will be a parish meeting on May 19 at 9:00 am (between services) in St. Mary's Hall to present and discuss project details.

Yoga Classes

There will be no yoga classes on 5/21 and 5/23.