

THE SENTINEL

PENTECOST: A CELEBRATION OF THE READILY AVAILABLE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

In John's gospel (7:38-39) Jesus speaks of the Spirit which those who believe were to receive, and then goes on to say that the Spirit had not yet come. This assertion, "that the Spirit had yet to come" seems to contradict the obvious widespread activity of the Spirit recounted throughout the pages of both the Old and New Testaments before Jesus' death and resurrection.

John knew his Old Testament and knew about the Spirit in Jesus during his ministry on earth. Nevertheless, John could write that the Spirit was not yet because Jesus was not yet glorified. The point he is making is that in comparison with what was yet to be, with the pouring out of the Spirit through the upcoming Pentecost, he could say that all previous experience of the Spirit was as nothing. In comparison with what was yet to be, it will be as if there had been no Spirit up to this point. Pentecost is a celebration of such an outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in comparison with which it's as if there was no Holy Spirit in our lives. Just as Mary, on whom the Spirit had come at the Annunciation could still pray for the coming of power from on high, so we can pray with Mary before Pentecost for the Spirit's coming in such a way that in comparison there was not yet spirit in our lives.

This opening up of the flood-gates of the gifts of the Spirit manifest itself in greater trust in God's continuous guidance and support as we stumble through a dark period of life or the arrival of unexpected opportunities to serve others with newly discovered talents which were dormant.

The Pentecost outpouring of the Spirit is a reminder that we are never entitled to be content with what God has given us and are always obliged to ask for more, in

comparison with the best wine which if kept to the end (read the account of wedding feast at Cana in John 2:1-10). We show our gratitude to God precisely by asking for more. God can give us so much more than he has given us to date that everything we have received until now can seem as though we received nothing.

The church is facing many challenges coming from our surrounding culture. Most troublesome for denominations like ours is that "Millennials"- people born between the early 1980-2000 – are the most likely to self-identify with the "unaffiliated to any religion". Only a small fraction of these belong to mainstream churches. We have been put on notice that young people view religious identity as more a matter of personal choice than lifelong ascription. This is a shaking of our foundations.

Obviously we are being faced with having to either search for ways of communicating with young people or risk being sidelined as irrelevant or antiques. Avenues of reaching out have to be found which will not result in watering down our core-beliefs such as our creeds. Changing our attitudes is vitally necessary. Denunciations from "on high" and grave warnings from clergy now fall on the deaf ears of these millennials.

The church urgently needs the Holy Spirits' gifts of insight and discernment to guide and enlighten our reading of the "Signs of the Times." Because of Pentecost, these gifts are readily available for the asking. I believe the Holy Spirit is sending us a message concerning the urgency of our responding to its gift of prayer
Father David +

Warden's Report:



The weather has warmed up and summer is here. I cannot believe we have already made it through the first half of the year. We have transitioned to our summer schedule where Sunday service will be at 10:00 a.m. through August 23rd.

Upcoming Events: We have a new Andrew Brooks scholarship winner: Mazie Sullivan. She is a bright young lady who will be attending Appalachian State University in the fall. The vestry will be planning a reception soon so all can meet and congratulate her on her success and future.

St. Stephens will soon be losing a cherished couple. Please join us for a reception on July 12 after the 10:00 am service to say farewell to Tony and Oralee Adams. A big thank you to the Adams' for their service and commitment to St Stephens' over the years.



SUMMER 2015

KEY DATES

- ◆ Sun, 12 Jul: Adams' Farewell Coffee Hour (11:00)
- ◆ Sun, 16 Aug: Our 110th Anniversary Celebration & Homecoming
- ◆ Sun, 30 Aug: Resume 11:00 Service Schedule
- ◆ Wed, 16 Sep: Deadline for Fall 2015 *Sentinel* input
- ◆ Sun, 20 Sep: Annual Parish Picnic



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>ECW News</i>	2
<i>DOK News</i>	2
<i>Warden's Report (cont.)</i>	2
<i>Holy Humor</i>	INSERT
<i>Birthdays / Anniversaries</i>	3
<i>Financial Update</i>	3
<i>Editor's Corner</i>	3

ECW News

In May, the ladies of St. Stephen's were treated to a wonderful breakfast by the men of the church. This is always such an enjoyable experience for those that attend.

Our ECW meeting followed the breakfast. Two donations were approved by the members. One went to CAJI World Changers, which is a group of young people whose

Daughter's of the King

DOK is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church. The mission of the Order is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through Prayer, Service and Evangelism. That sounds pretty complicated but an everyday conversation can show us that our faith is not a private faith hidden in our heart.

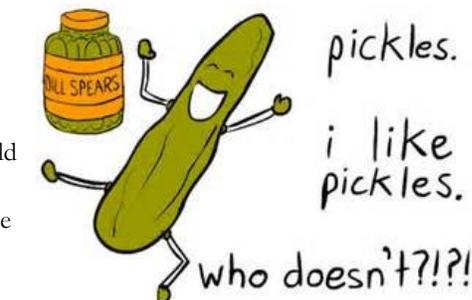
My 7 year old Grandson noticed my DOK necklace and he asked "Why do you wear that all the time?" Well, I told him of the DOK mission and said basically "what I am led to do as a Daughter is to pray every

day for people and situations that have been brought to the DOK Order. He asked "how do you know if prayer works?" I replied "my job is to bring a need before God and to trust and thank Him that He hears me". Sometimes we hear that a person has got a job or has recovered from an illness or is happier. At that point my Grandson said "well that's a good thing, is there a Son of the King group?"

The Miriam Chapter meets monthly at 5:00 following 4:30 Prayer Time. There are currently 11 daughters. On August

9th we will welcome three new Daughters in a Service of Admission: Winsome Foulkes, Jane Hawley and Jeanne Healy.

Sadly, we will lose a member this summer, Oralee Adams, who established the Miriam Chapter in 2009. Anyone wishing to learn about joining the DOK is invited to come to one of our meetings or contact: Linda McKenzie, Margaret Taylor, Oralee Adams, Barbara Nicoll, Diane Lanier, Greta Crayton, Kathy Tuttle, Clea Gallian, Ginnie Boudreau, Pam Gibbons or Mary Speer. Peace be with you!



Grace Zyla, ECW
President

Warden's Report (continued)

Our church's 110th anniversary celebration will be on August 16th. The ECW will be hosting a cold plate luncheon on that day after the service. I hope to see you at some or all of these fellowship opportunities.

Since the first of the year, you may have noticed how good the inside of the church has looked. Our own Jennifer Trainer is the new sexton and has done a fabulous job keeping the church looking wonder-

ful. I think all have noticed the improvement seen since she took over. Thank you so much Jennifer.

Our Junior Warden, Frank Trainer, has done an equally great job completing several projects over the last year. The outside of the church is looking great thanks to his hard work - along with the assistance of a few volunteers. Over the last several meetings, the vestry has discussed

a few new ideas for the outdoor area at the back of the church. If you have any ideas or suggestions on that area of the church, please share them with a vestry member.

Enjoy the summer and stay cool!

Heather Honeycutt,
Sr. Warden





HEAVEN ON EARTH?

A young lady came home from a date rather sad. She told her mother, "John proposed to me an hour ago."

"Then why are you so sad?" her mother asked.

"Because he also told me he is an atheist. Mom, he doesn't even believe there's a Hell."

Her mother replied, "Marry him anyway. Between the two of us, we'll show him how wrong he is."

A CREATION STORY

Adam had a conversation with the Lord one day after he was finished naming all the animals. He had noticed that every animal had a mate except for him. So Adam asked God if he could make him a mate also. Therefore, God told Adam, "I will make for you a creature that will be the most beautiful thing to look at. She will always be submissive and in agreement with you, she will bring coffee to you every morning, prepare all your meals, and will bless you in many other ways."

Being a little skeptical, Adam asked the Lord, "How much will this cost me?"

God replied, "An arm and a leg."

Then Adam asked, "What can I get for a rib?"

DOG TRAINING

A man was having difficulties trying to train a dog he had just bought. One day he was talking about this to his next door neighbor who happened to be an evangelist. The man complained, "This dog of mine is so disobedient...I can't train him!"

The evangelist replied, "Why don't you let me have your dog for a few days? I have a couple dogs and they pay attention to me."

"Okay, take my dog for a week and see what you can do."

A week later the man goes back to his evangelist neighbor and asked, "How's it going with my dog?"

The evangelist said, "Great! Here he is! Talk to him."

The man said "Sit" and his dog sat.

Then the man said "Roll over" and his dog rolled over.

Finally the man said "Heal!" The dog put its paws on the owner's head and barked, "Woof, woof, woof, woof, woof!"



E-MAIL BLUNDER

An Illinois man left the snow-filled streets of Chicago for a vacation in Florida. His wife was on a business trip and was planning to meet him there the next day. When he reached his hotel, he decided to send his wife a quick e-mail. Unable to find the scrap of paper on which he had written her e-mail address, he did his best to type it in from memory. Unfortunately, he missed one letter, and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife, whose husband had passed away only the day before. When the grieving widow checked her e-mail, she let out a piercing scream and fell to the floor in a dead faint. Her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen: "Dearest Wife, Just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow. PS. Sure is hot down here!"

ACTS 2:38

A woman went into her kitchen to find a burglar loaded down with a bunch of stuff he was stealing from her kitchen. Not having any kind of weapon to scare him off, she raised her hand and said, "Acts 2:38," and proceeded to quote scripture.

The burglar froze in place and didn't move. The woman called 911; the police arrived and were amazed to find the burglar still frozen where he stood. "What did you say to him that kept him from moving?" they asked the woman.

She told them that she had simply said Acts 2:38 and quoted scripture. The police chuckled and escorted the burglar out to the patrol car. "Why did the woman's quoting scripture scare you so much?" they asked.

"Scripture?" said the burglar, "I thought she said she had an ax and two 38's!"

BULLETIN BLOOPERS

* "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Remember to bring your husbands."

* Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.

* A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in honor of his wife.

* The congregation is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.

* Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.

* Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

* Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for Summer 2015



Birthday Wishes to:

3 Jul - Colon McLaurin
 4 Jul - Cindy Strickland
 5 Jul - Robert Nicholl
 5 Jul - Margaret Taylor
 7 Jul - Dallas Strickland
 12 Jul - Jennifer Trainer
 14 Jul - Kitty Heinzman
 16 Jul - Winsome Foulkes
 16 Jul - Andrew Snyder
 19 Jul - Sarah Padrazas
 20 Jul - Emily Pope
 26 Jul - Ferrell Adkison
 26 Jul - Amanda Falcon
 27 Jul - Ava Falcon
 29 Jul - Jenny Sills
 6 Aug - Shannon Tuohey
 9 Aug - Benjamin Parker
 9 Aug - Lisa Williams

10 Aug - Michael Gibbons
 10 Aug - Larry Jones
 11 Aug - Pamela Tuohey
 16 Aug - Sarah Lester
 18 Aug - Vertie Baker
 20 Aug - Meredith Fychok
 20 Aug - Ava Trainer
 24 Aug - Clifton Royal
 27 Aug - Kelly Strickland
 29 Aug - Lalitha Raj
 1 Sep - David Heinzman
 2 Sep - Mark Gibbons
 3 Sep - Mary Bumgardner
 11 Sep - Steve Tidd
 19 Sep - Earl Boudreau
 21 Sep - Lisa Pope
 25 Sep - Heather Gibbons
 27 Sep - Bill Lanier

28 Sep - Kelly Stephens

Anniversary Blessings to:

6 Jul - Ferrell & Emma Adkison
 7 Jul - Albert & Kelly Strickland
 13 Jul - Pete & Grace Zyla
 14 Jul - Steve Tidd & Lisa Williams
 16 Jul - Ronald & Camilla Turner
 1 Aug - Nicholas & Kelly Stephens
 4 Aug - Michael & Meredith Fychok
 15 Aug - Ryan & Kelsey King
 17 Aug - David & Kitty Heinzman
 20 Aug - Amanda Falcon
 24 Aug - Colon & Eunice McLaurin
 3 Sep - George & Margarete Yarick
 10 Sep - Eric & Sarah Lester
 17 Sep - Lloyd & Nina Maynard
 30 Sep - Michael & Heather Gibbons



“O GOD, OUR
 TIMES ARE IN YOUR
 HAND: LOOK WITH
 FAVOR, WE PRAY
 ON THESE YOUR
 SERVANTS AS THEY
 BEGIN ANOTHER
 YEAR.”

Financial Update

This report consists of the months from January through May 2015, as June financial statements have not been finalized at the time of this article.

For the month of May 2015, St. Stephen's had a positive revenue of \$4140.56. The actual year to

date revenue, through May 2015, is a positive \$7988.40

Thank you to those who have honored their pledged offerings and for those who have made generous unpledged offerings. The unpledged offerings through May 2015 are \$5230.00

Please continue your support for St. Stephen's throughout the year.

Jim Hawley, Treasurer



Editor's Corner: The Church Family



“You say goodbye and I say hello” (The Beatles, 1967)

I have been a member of 12 parishes in 11 diocese since my baptism in 1953. In each place of worship, I regarded the congregation as my church family because I was taught that as baptized Christians we share a new birth in Christ (1 Peter 1:3); and are co-heirs to His eternal kingdom (Romans 8:17).

Oralee and I were blessed to join the congregation of St. Stephen's in 2007. Although it was hard to say goodbye to our previous church family, it was easy to say hello to our new relatives. Lloyd Maynard greeted us at the door with a smile and a firm handshake. Kitty and David Heinzman sat to our rear offering to guide us thru the sequence of the service if needed. Bebe and Joe Johnson sat to our front and asked if we would join them for coffee hall after the service. Fr. David preached a poignant Lenten sermon. The choir, though small, led us in a sung psalm. The family reunion had

begun! Oralee and I felt at home in our now extended family of God's household.

Just as one's own family changes thru births, marriages, and deaths; so too has our church family. We have witnessed many faces come and go in our 8 years at St. Stephen's. But, the family bonds remain strong as ever. We have, hopefully, done our part welcoming newcomers, bidding farewells, and offering grievances for those departed. It is now our time to say goodbye. We will likely shed a tear as we do.

However, we've come to realize that farewells are never permanent. I returned to one parish three times during my many Army assignments. Perhaps God will someday bring us back to Erwin... or possibly bring one or more of you to TN. Regardless, by God's grace, we shall all someday greet one another as a communion of saints; united with loved ones in the family of God.

AJLA

NOTE INSERT:

ENCLOSED IS A SMALL COLLECTION OF JOKES AND CHURCH BLOOPERS FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT.

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO LET THE NEXT EDITOR KNOW WHAT ITEMS OF INTEREST YOU MAY WISH TO SEE IN FUTURE NEWS-LETTERS.



St. Stephen's remains the only Episcopal Church serving Harnett County.

Although the church still has later generations of the first families who founded St. Stephen's, current membership more widely reflects the diverse population of all of Harnett County.

We are a county-wide parish on the threshold of exciting growth for the future.

LOCATE US ON THE WEB AT:

WWW.STSTEPHENSERWIN.ORG

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

201 Denim Drive
Erwin, North Carolina
28339

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN”