



THE LION'S TALE

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE REV. DR. PETER VAN HORNE, INTERIM RECTOR
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JUNE 2011



Dear Friends:

The Easter season is coming to a close, and the season of Pentecost begins on Pentecost Sunday, June 12.

"Pentecost" gets its name from being the fiftieth day after Easter. The Book of the Acts of the Apostles tells us it was the day when the Holy Spirit touched the lives of the Apostles and enabled them to proclaim the gospel to the

peoples of the world they knew in their day. Furthermore, according to the story, they were able to preach in the languages of those nations, a gift for tongues they did not have until that day.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. . . . And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." (*Acts 2:1-11*)

Pentecost is celebrated as the "Birthday of the Church," the day when it received new life and new energy and

started to grow and spread from Jerusalem into the rest of the known world.

Let me share with you a Pentecost experience I had in Hawaii many years ago. The event was a celebration of the Eucharist at a Pacific Basin Conference of Anglicans. There were lay persons, archbishops, bishops, priests, and deacons present from most of the nations on both sides of the Pacific Basin – Alaska, Canada, the west coast of the U.S., Hawaii, Central America, South America, Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Polynesia, Micronesia, Tahiti, the Philippines, Japan, China, and Burma. Almost all spoke English, yet not always as their first language. The Presider at the Eucharist this particular day was Archbishop Sir Paul Reeves of New Zealand, the first Maori bishop of the Anglican Church. At the time of the Lord's Prayer in the liturgy, he told everyone that he wanted them to pray the Lord's Prayer in their first language, which might or might not be English. He said that while some feared that all the languages spoken at the same time might sound like Babel (babble), he thought it would sound more like Pentecost. And, indeed, the soft murmur of English, Spanish, Asian languages, Polynesian languages, and Native North American languages was that of a murmur blowing gently on the wind.

This Pentecost we will have our experience in "tongues" at the Lord's Prayer. A service bulletin insert that Sunday will have the Lord's Prayer in a variety of languages. Some of us are able to speak languages other than English – perhaps Spanish, French, Latin, New Testament Greek, American Sign Language, and who knows what else? On June 12th let's bring these tongues together, regardless of how proficient we are, and use them in prayer to the God of all peoples and tongues.



Bishop Smith's Visit and Confirmation September 11, 2011: Confirmation Class

Bishop Smith's next official visit to St. Mark's will be Sunday, September 11. This will be an opportunity for people to be **Confirmed** or to be officially **Received** into the Episcopal Church or, if you have been away from the church for a while or wish to make a re-commitment, you can do a **Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows**.

Which is which? Confirmation is for those persons baptized at an early age and who have been prepared, are ready to make a mature public affirmation of their faith, and receive the laying on of hands by the Bishop. Confirmation also is for those persons who used to be part of another denomination yet who were never confirmed in that church.

Following are the prayers used by the Bishop for Confirmation:

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life. *Amen.*

or this

Defend, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that *he* may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *he* comes to your everlasting kingdom. *Amen.*

Being Received into the Episcopal Church is for those persons who were confirmed in another denomination but now wish to be in the Episcopal Church. Following is the prayer for those being Received:

N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. *Amen.*

Some people, for whatever reason, may wish to publicly Reaffirm their Baptismal Vows and receive the laying on of hands by the Bishop. People might do this because their spiritual journey has led them to take this step. This is the Reaffirmation prayer used by the Bishop:

N., may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. *Amen.*

I still remember the date of my confirmation – September 8, 1963 in Grace Episcopal Church, Nampa, Idaho – and Bishop Norman Foote presided, the same Bishop who ordained me in 1970.

We talk about the “laying on of hands” by a Bishop for Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation, and Ordination. This refers to an Old Testament practice of a spiritual leader or the leader of a family laying his hands on the head of a person to bless them and to endow them with strength and power for their work. This practice was continued in the New Testament and in the life of the Church when the apostles laid hands on new believers after their baptism in order to give them the Holy Spirit. The apostles also used the laying on of hands to ordain people as Deacons and Bishops, and Bishops used the laying on of hands to ordain people as Priests when that ministry developed around the years A.D. 125 to A.D.150. The laying on of hands by a bishop is a very special, holy moment.

Confirmation Class

I already know of one or two people who are ready for Confirmation Class, and there might be others who wish to be Confirmed or Received. Please speak to me as soon as possible, or email me (petervanhorne@gmail.com) so we can talk with each other about the schedule for a Confirmation Class. If anyone wishes to make a Reaffirmation, I would welcome an opportunity to hear from you about your spiritual journey.

Parish Member Questionnaire Report

Last month members of St. Mark's were given an opportunity to complete a questionnaire that sought to gather information about our parishioners, and to answer some narrative questions about the future goals and ministries of the congregation.

A total of fifty-eight (58) questionnaires were returned – a very good number that gives a fairly accurate snapshot of the membership, and what the future might look like. I finished the writing the report on the results and sent it to the Bishop, Dr. Dan Smith in the Bishop's Office, and to the Vestry. This message contains a link ([click here](#)) to the report so that you may read it and discuss it.

The Vestry and the Search Committee might find some of the report helpful as they write a Parish Profile and search for the next Rector of St. Mark's. The report contains conclusions and recommendations that are mine, based on the responses I received. After you read the report in its entirety, please speak to me if you have questions.



Buildings and Grounds Improvements



Several weeks ago Rita Diekemper presented the congregation with some proposals for plants and trees to add beauty to the church grounds. There are still more plants that can be donated with a gift ranging from \$30 to

\$35. Additionally, one feature she suggested is a sturdy metal bench for the church's accessible entrance, a bench similar to the one pictured here. We are about half-way to the \$1400 cost of the sturdy, durable bench. If you would like to contribute, this would be a thoughtful way to give a memorial gift to honor someone, or a gift in thanksgiving for how God has touched your life.



Tornado Rips Through Joplin, Missouri

At least 117 people are dead after a massive tornado tore through the town of Joplin, Missouri, on Sunday, May 22. The storm caused severe property damage, destroying homes and businesses, and disabling one of the major hospitals in town. Electricity and phone services were cut off, and many roads remain impassable due to downed trees and piles of debris. The path of the tornado is reported to have been at least half a mile wide and four miles long, and rescue crews are still working to locate survivors who may be trapped in the wreckage.

Episcopal Relief & Development has been in contact with the Episcopal Diocese of Western Missouri, and is providing assistance in the aftermath of this disaster. Funds will be used to provide food, gas cards and temporary shelter for those in need.

Please pray for all those impacted by the tornado, especially families who are grieving, and for the rescue workers and all those who are helping the community to recover.

If you wish to donate, checks made payable to *Episcopal Relief and Development* may be mailed to Episcopal Relief and Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058 or to donate with a credit card call 800-334-7626, extension 5129.

Thank you!

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. Dr. Peter E. Van Horne
Interim Pastor



WHAT'S COMING UP?

THURS, JUNE 2 Endowment Meeting (see p.4)

SUN. JUNE 5TH 11:15 am Parish Life Meeting

THURS, JUNE 9TH Special Vestry Meeting

SUNDAY, JUNE 19TH Vestry Meeting

SAT. JUNE 25TH Metro III Meeting Here 1:00 am-noon

SAT & SUN JUNE 25 & 26 Pridefest (see p. 4)

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

~Trinity Lunch

~St. Louis Fashion Doll Club

FEED MY PEOPLE

St Mark's is participating in Feed My People's Meal A Month program. Each month a suggested shopping list of 5 items is provided which helps provide a complete meal for a family. Donation bags are available at the back of church and envelopes for those who would prefer to make a cash donation. Donations may be brought to church any time during the month. Any donations are welcome; the list is just a suggestion. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please contact Marti Robards with any questions.



SUMMER OFFICE NEWS

Hours are Tues, Wed, and Friday mornings from 8:30 – 1:30. All are encouraged to let the office know of any announcements to be included in the bulletin, Markings and/or Lion's Tale.

For the St. Mark's Calendar, please visit our website www.saintmarks-stl.org and click on the calendar tab.

FRIDAY CONCERT IN FRANCIS PARK



This summer the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association is sponsoring Friday Night Concerts in Francis Park. The first concert will be by **FANFARE** (with our own Kittie Golomski!!) on Friday June 17, 2011 starting at 7 PM. Invite neighbors, family, friends and co-workers and enjoy a concert under the stars. Concert will be held by the Tennis Courts. This is a great opportunity to support a neighborhood event and will encourage future concerts by all types of musical groups. Bring chairs/blankets and join in the fun.

PrideFest 2011

June 25 and 26

Tower Grove Park

March in the Pride Parade!

Noon on Sunday, June 26

Join us as we celebrate the GLBT PrideFest in Tower Grove Park, June 25 and 26. A great opportunity to show the community that Our Episcopal Church Invites Everyone! Wear your St Mark's T-Shirts. Please check the bulletin and/or the markings for more details when they become available.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Proehl Building to discuss investment strategies and possible changes to the endowment investments. We will again have people from Buckingham Asset Management to provide a report. All are invited to attend.

SIGN-UP TO HELP WITH TRINITY LUNCHEON ON SUNDAY, JUNE 26TH



You can be part of this ministry to our hungry friends and neighbors! Contact Amiya Thompson or Carey Tisdal if you would like to help.

KIDS!

JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR

GROWING IN GOD'S GARDEN



Hear Stories of

- The Garden of Eden
- The Mustard Seed
- The Garden of Gethsemane
- The Parable of the Sower
- The Workers in the Vineyard & More!
- PLUS Work in Our Own Garden of Eatin' Community Garden

SUNDAY SCHOOL
JUNE 5-SEPTEMBER 4

Join Us on Sundays During the 10:00 a.m. Service

Children over 10 years old can volunteer as helpers.