

THE NEWSLETTER

A Ministry of Cornerstone Fellowship of Coatesville Pennsylvania

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PENTECOST IS SUNDAY, MAY 15th ! GET YOUR RED READY!

When it comes to church holidays, **Christmas** and **Easter** get all the attention. But what about **PENTECOST!** Each year, Pentecost Sunday comes 50 days after Easter Sunday, hence its name. The Greek word for 50 is pentecost. It was the name that the Greek speaking Jews called the Hebrew festival "Shavuot," which comes from a decree in Leviticus 23:16, which instructs people to count seven weeks or "50" days from the end of Passover to Shavuot, a harvest festival celebrating the "first fruits" on the farms. It also later became the feast of thanksgiving for the giving of the law on Mount Sinai.

In the same way that Jesus, the Lamb of God, was crucified on the day and more or less during the time when the Hebrew Passover lamb was slaughtered in the temple during the Passover feast, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the very day when the Hebrews celebrated the first fruits of the harvest and the coming of the law. It seems that God values the days of celebration he instated and gives a deep spiritual meaning to them that we who follow Jesus may grow in knowledge, gratefulness and commitment. And that we will never forget God's great deeds of salvation.

The beginning of Pentecost is recorded in Acts 2 "Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" Acts 2:2-4.

When the Holy Spirit descended some 2,000 years ago, one of Jesus' disciples, Peter, explained the event to a perplexed crowd by invoking the prophet Joel's words: "in the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy." Pentecost is a time for Christians to be reminded that we are a bunch of dreamers – communities of faith discovering that they – together – can be a vehicle for manifesting God's vision for the world. The first fruits of the church, more than 3000 people, were saved and brought in after Peter preached his first sermon after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the church on that day.

SO... Pentecost Sunday is a commemoration and celebration of the receiving of the Holy Spirit by the early church. John the

Baptist prophesied of the first Pentecost when Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Matthew 3:11). Jesus confirmed this prophecy with the promise of the Holy Spirit to the disciples in John 14:26. He showed Himself to these men after His death on the cross and His resurrection, giving convincing proofs that He was alive. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Father's gift of the Holy Spirit, from whom they would receive power to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:3-8). After Jesus' ascension to heaven, the men returned to Jerusalem and joined together in prayer in an upper room. On the Day of Pentecost, just as promised, the sound of a violent wind filled the house and tongues of fire came to rest on each of them and all were filled with the Holy Spirit. They were given the power of communication, which Peter used to begin the ministry for which Jesus had prepared him. After the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples did not stay in the room basking in God's glory but burst out to tell the world. This was the beginning of the church as we know it.

Today, in many churches, Pentecost Sunday is celebrated to recognize the gift of the Holy Spirit, realizing that God's very life, breath and energy live in believers. We remember that our risen Savior supernaturally appeared to the fear-laden disciples and they were filled with power. Their fear gave way to joy when the Lord showed them His hands and side. He assured them peace and repeated the command given in Matthew 28:19-20, saying, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." Then He breathed on them, and they received the Holy Spirit (John 20:21-23).

The celebration of Pentecost reminds us of the reality that we all have the unifying Spirit that was poured out upon the first-century church in Acts 2:1-4. It is a reminder that we are co-heirs with Christ, to suffer with Him that we may also be glorified with Him; that the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:7); that we are all baptized by one Spirit into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13); and that the Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead lives inside believers (Romans 8:9-11). This gift of the Holy Spirit that was promised and given to all believers on the first Pentecost is promised for you and your children and for all who call upon the name of the Lord.

Churches have many ways that they commemorate the day. But at Cornerstone, we all dress in RED, the symbol of the power and the fire of the Holy Spirit.

TO HELP CELEBRATE THIS SPECIAL DAY, WE ARE ASKING EVERYONE IN THE CONGREGATION TO WEAR RED ON MAY 15th. On May 15th, let's all turn out in our finest reds to thank

God for his bride, the Church, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Get your tickets now for this special event.



The DATE is Monday, May 16th

The TIME is 6pm

The COST is \$7.00 per person for those 12 and above; \$3.00 per person for those 4-11 years of age; with those under 4 FREE

This year's theme is *Discovering God's Treasures*

Come by yourself, or invite someone to come with you.

Every woman is invited to participate in this exciting event.

We'll have a GREAT TIME!

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



Thursday, May 5th is National Day of Prayer. Please pray for our Nation, that God will raise up an army of faithful Christians who seek to serve Him.

In preparation for National Day of prayer, you are invited to Cornerstone on Saturday, April 30 at 6:30pm to see the film **WAR ROOM**.

Even if you have already seen it, come and see it again. You'll be BLESSED again & again!

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

May

- 1 1 Samuel 3 & 4
- 2 1 Samuel 5 & 6
- 3 1 Samuel 7 & 8; Psalm 87; John 19
- 4 1 Samuel 9 & 10; Psalm 88; John 20
- 5 1 Samuel 11 & 12; Psalm 89; John 21
- 6 1 Samuel 13 & 14; Psalm 90; Acts 1
- 7 1 Samuel 15 & 16; Psalm 91; Acts 2
- 8 1 Samuel 17 & 18
- 9 1 Samuel 19 & 20
- 10 1 Samuel 21 & 22; Psalm 92; Acts 3
- 11 1 Samuel 23 & 24; Psalm 93; Acts 4
- 12 1 Samuel 25 & 26; Psalm 94; Acts 5
- 13 1 Samuel 27 & 28; Psalm 95; Acts 6
- 14 1 Samuel 29 & 30; Psalm 96; Acts 7
- 15 1 Samuel 31
- 16 2 Samuel 1 & 2
- 17 2 Samuel 3 & 4; Psalm 97; Acts 8
- 18 2 Samuel 5 & 6; Psalm 98; Acts 9
- 19 2 Samuel 7 & 8; Psalm 99; Acts 10
- 20 2 Samuel 9 & 10; Psalm 100; Acts 11
- 21 2 Samuel 11 & 12; Psalm 101; Acts 12
- 22 2 Samuel 13 & 14
- 23 2 Samuel 15 & 16
- 24 2 Samuel 17 & 18; Psalm 102; Acts 13
- 25 2 Samuel 19 & 20; Psalm 103; Acts 14
- 26 2 Samuel 21 & 22; Psalm 104; Acts 15
- 27 2 Samuel 23 & 24; Psalm 105; Acts 16
- 28 1 Kings 1 & 2; Psalm 106; Acts 17

29 1 Kings 3 & 4

30 1 Kings 5 & 6

31 1 Kings 7 & 8; Psalm 107; Acts 18

GOD'S DWELLING PLACE AND OURS

The mention of the word *heaven* raises at once a number of questions. Is there really such a place? If so, where is it? What is heaven like? Will everyone go there, or just a certain few? And then, some will ask, "Do we go there immediately at death, or does the soul 'sleep' for a while?"

For many people in the last half of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st, these questions are not relevant. They scoff at the idea of life after death and ridicule belief in a heaven of eternal bliss and a hell of everlasting punishment. They are convinced that man's existence ends at the grave. Or they believe that everyone goes to heaven no matter what they believe or what kind of life they have lived on earth.

Christians, however, do believe in a beautiful place called heaven, and they look forward to eternal life within its gates. Based on their faith in God's Word, they anticipate the joys that await them in their eternal home. This comforting thought brings healing to the wounds of their earthly existence and quenches their sorrows.

The place to find out about heaven is, obviously, the Bible (the place that Christians should go for answers to ALL of life's questions). The word *heaven* in its singular and plural forms occurs more than 600 times in Scripture. We are given much information about our eternal home. First, let's consider carefully as the habitation of God.

The Bible often speaks of heaven as God's "habitation" and declares that He dwells there (Isaiah 57:15, for instance). Solomon also recognized heaven as God's home when he prayed: *May You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive* (1 Kings 8:30).

This does not mean that God is absent from earth. His presence is everywhere, but His dwelling place is in heaven. He abides there and from that location he is present throughout all His creation. God, our Father, is everywhere at the same time, wanting to BLESS his children!

THE LIGHT TURNED YELLOW

The light turned yellow just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up.

He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for the mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally... I assumed you had stolen the car."

(Oooops! Her actions negated whatever witness she was trying to achieve with the visible emblems of faith she had displayed. Remember the old saying – "What you do speaks SO LOUD, I can't hear what you're saying!" How can we possibly win the world for Christ if we don't behave as if we belong to Him?)

DID YOU KNOW?

One detail that is never mentioned is that in Washington DC there can never be a building of greater height than the Washington Monument. With all the uproar about removing the Ten Commandments, etc., check this out – God is GOOD!

On the aluminum cap atop the Washington Monument are displayed two words: **Laus Deo**. No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument are totally unaware they are even there and for that matter, probably couldn't care less.

However, once you know *Laus Deo's* history you will want to share this with everyone you know. These words have been there for many years; they are 555 feet, 5.125 inches high, perched atop the monument, facing skyward to the Father of our nation, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, capital of the USA.

Laus Deo! Two seemingly insignificant, unnoticed words. Out of sight and, one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world.

So, what do those two words, in Latin, composed of just four syllables and only seven letters, possibly mean? Very simply, they mean "**Praise be to God!**"

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848, when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty-five years to finally cap the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation, *Laus Deo*. "**Praise be to God!**"

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. From that vantage point, one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles L'Enfant... a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape, with the White House to the north. The Jefferson Memorial is to the south, the Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west.

A cross you ask? Why a cross? What about separation of church and state? Yes, a cross; separation of church and state was not, is not, in the Constitution. So, read on. How interesting and, no doubt, intended to carry a profound meaning for those who bother to notice.

"**Praise be to God!**" Within the monument itself are 898 steps and 50 landings. As one climbs the steps and pauses at the landings the memorial stones share a message.

On the 12th landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore; on the 20th is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th a presentation made by Sunday school children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16 and Proverbs 22:6. "**Praise be to God!**"

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848, deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. "**Praise be to God!**" Such was the discipline, the moral direction, and the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique republic "One Nation, Under God."

Have you ever read Washington's prayer for America? Read on! "*Almighty God: We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*"

Laus Deo! When one stops to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation's capital, he or she will easily find the signature of God, as it is unmistakably inscribed everywhere you look. You may forget the width and height of "**Laus Deo**," its location, or the architects but no one who reads this will be able to forget its meaning, or these words: "**Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.**" (Psalm 127:1)

I'll bet this is a lesson in American history that you never learned in school.

FORGIVENESS

If it can't wash others, how will it wash you?

One night in a church service a young woman felt the tug of God at her heart. She responded to God's call and accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior.

The young woman had a very rough past, involving alcohol, drugs, and prostitution. But, the change in her heart was evident.

As time went on she became a faithful member of the church. She eventually became involved in the ministry, teaching young children.

It was not very long until this faithful young woman caught the eye and heart of a young man who had grown up in the church. The relationship grew and they began to make wedding plans.

This is when the problems began. About half of the church did not think that a woman with a past such as hers was suitable for a young man who had grown up in their midst. The church began to argue and fight about the matter.

So they decided to have a meeting. As the people made their arguments and tensions increased, the meeting got completely out of hand.

The young woman became very upset about all the things being brought up about her past.

As she began to cry, the young man stood to speak. He could not bear the pain it was causing his wife-to-be. He began to speak. "My fiancé's past is not what is on trial here. What you are questioning is the ability of the blood of Jesus to wash away sin. Today, you have put the blood of Jesus on trial. So, does His blood wash away sin or not?"

People throughout the church began to weep as they realized that they had been slandering the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Too often, even as Christians, we bring up the past and use it as a weapon against our brothers and sisters.

Forgiveness is a very foundational part of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If the blood of Jesus does not cleanse the other person completely, then it cannot cleanse us completely either.

"So likewise shall my Father do also to you, if you from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."
Matthew 18:35

GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

1- In the beginning, God made the world and he was delighted. Then he made Adam and Eve and gave them a wonderful garden in which to live. The garden was called Eden. Adam and Eve took care of the garden and walked with God. Life was good! Genesis 1:31 - **And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.**

2- But Satan, the enemy of God, came into that good life and persuaded Adam and Eve to disobey God. Their rebellion ruined everything.

Genesis 3:23 - **Therefore the Lord God sent them from the garden of Eden.**

3- Because of their rebellion, sin entered our world and was passed down from generation to generation.

Genesis 6:5,6 - **And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth... and it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.**

4- Because of sin there is a chasm between us and God. Some of us try to get back to God by good behavior or going to church. But we soon find out that nothing we do can make us right with God.

Romans 3:23 - **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.**

5- God never stopped loving us. In his mercy, he sent his only Son, Jesus, to earth to bring us back to God. Jesus died, taking the penalty of all our sins upon himself. Then God raised Jesus from the grave.

John 3:16 - **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

6- By accepting Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf, we become right with God.

John 14:6 - **Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

KINDRED CROSS at The Strawberry Festival

RESERVE THE DATE & TIME - KINDRED CROSS will be performing on stage at the Brandywine Hospital Strawberry Festival, Sunday, June 5, 3-5pm. Let's all show our support for Steve & the band and make our Christian witness seen by our

community

YOUTH NEWS

DON'T FORGET!!

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (grades 6-12) - WEDNESDAYS, 7-8:30 pm weekly (following the Mid-Week Worship Celebration)! Come and experience it! Bring your friends!!

YOUTH SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP - THURSDAYS at 7pm (EVERY YOUTH is invited!)

YOUTH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP - for Jr & Sr High - 9:30 am Sunday mornings

Worship Celebrations - Sundays at 8:15 and 10:45 am and Wednesdays at 6:30pm

PLEASE HELP US OUT!

EMPTY INKJET PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Please donate your empty inkjet printer cartridges to the youth group to be recycled. A container is placed in the **coat room** to receive your donations. **KEEP THOSE CARTRIDGES COMING!** We appreciate every bit of help we receive.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

COOL KIDS - Children, 4 years old up through grade 3 are invited to participate in COOL Kids on Sunday mornings at both the 8:15 and 10:45 celebration services. Following the praise time and the reading of scripture in the Worship Center, kids are dismissed to ROOM 108. COOL Kids (Children Of Our Lord Kids) helps kids learn to celebrate Christ in a way they enjoy and become excited about.

EVENT:

Sunday-Thursday, June 26-30 - Come to **WILDWOOD FOREST**

NAMES & TITLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

T	H	E	N	I	G	H	O	L	Y	G	H	O	S	T	T	R
R	H	H	W	O	N	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E	H	A
E	N	E	O	N	I	T	P	H	H	O	T	D	A	E	E	D
T	R	O	L	L	O	T	T	I	R	I	P	S	Y	L	O	H
R	N	N	S	O	I	U	A	H	E	Y	R	P	P	C	W	P
O	C	E	T	E	R	N	A	L	S	P	I	R	I	T	I	T
F	O	H	M	T	H	D	E	P	E	R	P	U	R	R	S	I
M	U	D	R	G	L	T	I	S	I	V	S	D	I	U	D	O
O	N	G	N	I	D	N	A	T	S	R	E	D	N	U	O	N
C	S	M	F	M	S	U	G	R	A	C	E	R	G	I	M	O
O	E	E	N	F	H	T	J	O	R	P	R	O	P	H	E	C
M	L	R	E	H	T	A	F	E	H	T	F	S	G	O	G	O

ADOPTION
CHRIST
COMFORTER
COUNSEL
ETERNAL SPIRIT
FREE SPIRIT
GLORY
GOD

GRACE
HOLINESS
HOLY GHOST
HOLY SPIRIT
JUDGMENT
KNOWLEDGE
LIFE
MIGHT
PROPHECY

REVELATION
THE FATHER
THE LORD
THE SON
THE SPIRIT
TRUTH
UNDERSTANDING
WISDOM

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Sunday, May 8, 2016 - Thank you, Mom!!!