

## It's the Season of Pentecost

*Read Acts 2:1-21*

I was listening to a speaker last year who is a well-respected “Pastor to Pastor’s” in this area. He was telling us that from a young age he suffered from debilitating fear and depression. When he got a little older he sought out help from a counselor. Finally, his counselor threw up his arms and said to him: “*You are the weakest man I have ever met.*”

A few years later, the Holy Spirit blew in this man’s direction, and he was open to it. He received it. He was born again. And his life took on new meaning. He had a reason to live and a story to tell. And boy, did he share with us that day! But at the end of his presentation, as he stood before approximately 100 pastors from around our city, he looked out at us and said, “*As I stand here in front of you I remain a very scared man.*” He added, “*I still suffer from depression.*” Then he said, “*I am still the weakest human being in the world. But this has become my ministry.*” And that is what the Holy Spirit can do to human beings. “*For when I am weak, then I am strong,*” proclaimed the Apostle Paul.

I know it’s hard to believe when we think about who we are and what we have done, but you and I and everyone who has ever lived are the apple of God’s eye. He laid down His life in order to reclaim us as His own. And then, He sends His Holy Spirit our way. And when it comes, we are given the opportunity to choose whether or not we will accept it, receive it, be born of it and become Children of God. And this new life in Christ doesn’t solve all our problems, but it does give us the strength and the will to turn our problems and short-comings into our ministries through which we bless others.

Everyone has problems. Everyone has some kind of monkey living on their back. We are all handicapped in one way or another. We all have some ugly places in our lives. But when God’s Spirit blows our way, God can turn those ugly places into beautiful places. Isn’t it just like God to turn our weaknesses into strengths? For it is more often than not because of our weaknesses that we turn to God and accept God’s invitation of new life in the first place.

What are the weak places in your life? What do you struggle with? How has God used those weaknesses to bring you to Him? How has God/how is God using your weaknesses to minister to others?

I think God uses our weaknesses because that is where it is most evident that we need God’s help. This is where we must most fully and completely rely on God to overcome and be triumphant. And the more we rely on God the better our lives become. The more we rely on God, the more we find ourselves loving God and loving other people. The more we rely on God and the less we rely on our own natures the more we are transformed into the image of Christ.

I am forever thankful that God has taken hold of me. I’m still a mess, but I’m God’s mess. I’m a mess; a mess with a mission and a love in my heart I could have never imagined possible.

Notice on the Day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit blew through the entire room where the disciples were sitting, and then they saw what looked like tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

As the Church of Jesus Christ, we are a corporate body upon which the Holy Spirit blows. We are also made up of individuals, each of whom the Spirit has come to rest and indwell in our own unique lives and fill our own unique places of weakness. Without the Spirit we can do nothing. With the Spirit we can do all things. We are all weak. But if we rely fully on the Holy Spirit God has given us we are all strong.

The church and individual Christians get in trouble when we try and go it alone. We need the Spirit and we need one another. Let us remember this as we enter the Season of Pentecost at Red Bank United Methodist Church. Pentecost runs all the way to Advent, so we have a long and exciting journey ahead.

May God bless and keep you.

Pastor Ken



Sarah Jones joined the Church and Griffin Long was baptized on Sunday, May 29.



3 Lee Hustead  
8 Gil Carmona  
10 Joe Esch  
12 Drew Lowe  
Pat Ingram

13 Jane Smith  
Jerry Moore  
15 Jack Pitkin  
Sheri Morris  
16 Betty Pearson  
21 Melanie Edwards  
29 Luther Tilley  
30 Teresa Elkins

14 Richard and Serie Bland  
26 Mike and Suzanne Bourne  
29 Steve and Sherri Barker

Happy Anniversary



Prayer Concerns: Debra Pitkin, Don Brooks, Lisa Wilson, Pattie Pope, Debby Brackett, Drew Lowe, Ken & Sylvia Newman, Serie Bland, Joy Haskett, Bub Gilliland, Georgette Edwards, Ethel Brooks, Jim Wulf, Jay Bland, Jennifer Jones, Jerry Jordan, Bill Moore, Kenny James, Teresa Baines

## Welcome the Unwelcome

June 13, 2022

By Tom Mayberry

I never know when a blog topic is going to present itself to me. This week, as my pastor was reading the scripture at the start of his sermon, my mind immediately raced into thoughts about how I would write on the message. Then, as he got into the interpretation of the scripture and how it applies to our everyday lives, it was following the train of thought I already had.

His scripture lesson was Acts chapters 10 and 11. Cornelius, a Gentile, had a vision from God telling him to reach out to Peter, a Jew, and hear Peter's message, even though Cornelius did not know what that message was. Around the same time, Peter had a vision giving him insight as to the message he would share with Cornelius.

*Acts 10:1-8 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctively saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea." When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.*

Around the same time, Peter has a vision that tested his strict interpretation of Jewish laws. Peter was extremely hungry and, in the vision, God provided numerous animals for him to eat, but Peter refused, saying they were unclean. In verses 14-15 we read, *"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."*

*Verses 19-20 While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."*

I continue to be amazed at how God works in everyone's lives and intertwines them together to perform His will.

*Skipping ahead to verse 27-28, While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean."*

*Verse 34-36 The Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all."*

Peter proceeded to tell them about Jesus' ministry, His death on the cross, and resurrection.

*Verse 44-48 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.*

(Continued)

I particularly was moved by verse 34 when Peter says that God does not show favoritism but accepts all who fear Him and do what is right. How often do we show favoritism? How often are we prejudice about a group of people who are not like us? This starts early on in our lives and continues through adulthood. Do you remember the one kid in school that did not fit in? Is there someone at work who people talk about behind their back? What about those awful people that do not share the same political beliefs as you do? God loves them all! In fact, Jesus sought out and hung out with the outcasts, those that were not accepted by “normal” society. He was creating a model of how to build His church, one lost sheep at a time.

Why is it, then, we as Christians do not adopt this same practice? Look at all the different beliefs about the same God. There are Jews, Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, Pentecostals, and non-denominational organizations, to name a few. How many believe their interpretation is the most accurate and are somewhat intolerant of the others? I do not feel this is what God was envisioning when He sent His son to die on the cross for our sins and to offer forgiveness, grace and eternal life with Him for all who believed in Him. It does not require any action or good deeds on our part, just faith! But if we truly believe in Him and what He stood for, how can we be so unforgiving, and continue to consider some as outcasts of our society?

Prejudices and favoritism are still prevalent in America. There are those who some consider impure. We, as Christians, need to stand up and fight against it. But how, I am just one person? You do this through your words and your actions. Do not sit back and condone the unfair treatment of others. Welcome the unwelcome into your group, into your church, into your life, and be the accepting person that Jesus showed us how to be. Jesus showed us how to build His church one lost sheep at a time. Right now, through your thoughts and actions, you may be the lost sheep. Maybe He just found you and now wants you to bring in the next lost sheep into His flock.

Let's celebrate our uniqueness and that God loves us all! Go in peace and find His lost sheep.

## **Brackett's Rackett**

I Peter 4:8 – “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”

The hatred and violence in our world today is overwhelming. I was just thinking about the pain that the parents of the children killed in Uvalde, Texas is unimaginable. It seems we humans look for someone to hate. Hate has replaced love. There are so many people around us that are just looking for someone to love them. This all makes me wonder if we as Christians (little Christ) are doing a good job at spreading his love, obviously not.

Without the love of Jesus, My Family, and My Church Family I don't know where I would be.

Thank God he placed people in my life to show me what His love is all about.

Lord Jesus, help me to be aware of those around me and to always be willing to show your unconditional LOVE.

### Love Lifted Me:

I was sinking deep in sin  
Far from the peaceful shore  
Very deeply stained within  
Sinking to rise no more  
But the master of the sea  
Heard my despairing cry,  
From the waters lifted me  
Now safe am I

Love lifted me! Love lifted me!  
When nothing else could help  
Love lifted me  
Love lifted me! Love lifted me!  
When nothing else could help  
Love lifted me

Souls in danger look above  
Jesus completely saves  
He will lift you by his love  
Out of the angry waves  
But the master of the sea  
Billows His will obey  
He your savior wants to be  
Be saved today

Love lifted me! Love lifted me!  
When nothing else could help  
Love lifted me  
Love lifted me! Love lifted me!  
When nothing else could help  
Love lifted me

O may I then in him be found:  
dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

### **Discipleship:**

**There will be “5<sup>th</sup> Sunday” Sunday School Class on July 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**All adult Sunday School Classes will meet together in the Fellowship Hall; David Brackett will be the teacher.**

**Along with this class there will be a fund-raising Breakfast for the First Impressions Committee Building upgrades.**

**Cost: Donation**



### **YOUTH (Grades 6-12):**

Cornerstone Youth Class is meeting in the Loft they are currently studying “My Family, My Friends, My Life”

Youth Foundation Bible Study – Sunday Nights at 5:30 p.m. – this summer they are doing a study on various cults.



The “**Rolling Stones**” kickball team is back.

This team is made up of youth, college students and young adults.

They play Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Rivermont Fields (watch each week for the exact time they will be playing that week).

### **Young at Heart (for all Senior Adults)**

#### **May 2022:**

|    |              |   |
|----|--------------|---|
| 10 | 11:00 a.m. - | Outing: Burger Republic -                             |
| 26 | 10:30 a.m. - | Program: Marion Perkins and her adventures in Iceland |





Many of you helped with the Rummage Sale Fundraiser for Missions on Saturday, May 7.



Even though it was a hot day we were blessed with lots of help at the Food Pantry Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.









The Red Bank Community Food Pantry gave away more than 160,000 pounds of food last year making us the biggest food pantry in Hamilton County.





The newest ministry of the food pantry is our homeless pantry. Two hundred food bags are taken to homeless camps around our city each month.

### **CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 29**

**5:00 P.M.**

**IN THE CHURCH YARD**

**FOOD WILL BE COVERED DISH**

**LOTS OF GAMES, ENTERTAINMENT, AND FUN!!!**

