

The Piper

May 2024



In This Issue

A Message from Father Martin	2-3, 5
Garden of Eatin’	4
Birthdays	6
Diocese Spring Renewal	7
Thoughts from a Parish Member	8-9
Senior Warden’s Message	10
Special Thoughts	10
St. Andrew’s Activities	11



A Message from Father Martin

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.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 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 we hear, each of us, in our own native language? All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Acts 2:1-8, 12, 38-47

Dear Friends,

Sunday, May 19 this year is Pentecost – a primary celebration of our Church Year and an important reminder of the Holy Spirit – the presence and power of God in our lives. I would like to share the following reflection as we prepare for and enter into the Season of Pentecost.

Pentecost teaches us about spiritual growth and our spiritual journeys.

Pentecost was not just about a one-time event, 2,000 years ago. That first Pentecost (as described in the 2nd chapter of Acts) was an amazing day. Fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, just after he ascended – the disciples are now on their own – they were waiting and praying and something happened. Later, they would speak of color and sound and communication with people from many nations.

The metaphor I would like to use to talk about that Pentecost experience and our spiritual lives is the metaphor of birth. Pentecost is called the birthday of the church. Paul in Romans speaks of Creation groaning in labor.

Do you remember the story, in John's Gospel, when Nicodemus – a well-educated man, successful, a spiritual seeker – came to Jesus because he sensed that, spiritually, Jesus was on to something. He asked Jesus to explain spirituality, to lay it out logically and analytically.

Jesus responded first by talking about the wind. We don't control the wind. We don't know where it comes from or when it will blow. But when it blows, you know. Then Jesus suggested that what Nicodemus was seeking and needing spiritually was to be born again, born from above, born anew. At first, Nicodemus protested – it didn't make sense. The conversation trailed off from there. Nicodemus had a lot to ponder.

Birth is not a transition from nothing to something. It is a transition from something to something more. Regardless of when you start the clock on "human personhood", as human life develops in a womb, it comes to be felt, cherished, awaited, and if tragically lost, then grieved. Life in a womb is relatively quiet, dark, secure and isolated except from the mother, whom the baby cannot see.

Then at birth the child enters a new world which is not quiet but loud – sounds at first like a rushing wind? A world which is not dark but bright – with colors like flames. There is diversity and movement – like divided tongues. There are people, community – sharing experiences, talking and understanding one another.

At times our spiritual and personal lives can be womb-like: secure, quiet, stable. And then for reasons we may not understand or expect, we may come to see in new ways, to recognize new things, new dimensions of life. That can be exciting, even overwhelming. And sometimes we may resist – close our eyes or ears – or sneer, like at that first Pentecost when critics said the disciples were only drunk with wine.

Sometimes Pentecost can be a renewal or re-birth, a fresh recognition of mystery, of beauty, of love. It can be the renewal of a relationship you have been in for a long time, or a vocation, such that you come to recognize anew the importance or depth or love that has been developing or present all along in your life and ministry. Or, it can be to recognize new dimensions and meaning in life beyond what you expected or had become familiar with and even bored with.

A key part of Pentecost and spiritual growth is community – in both cases becoming less isolated as in one's own womb; able to recognize others and hear one another. Christian community was born through this Holy Spirit experience as the disciples – seekers that they all were – prayed and waited together.

(Continued on page 5)



Lemon Ricotta Pound Cake

This fantastic lemon pound cake is so moist and full of flavor using ricotta cheese in the mixture. A huge hit with everyone who has tried it.

Ingredients

3/4 cup unsalted butter	1-1/2 cups whole milk ricotta cheese
1-1/2 cups cake flour	1-1/2 cups granulated sugar
2 tsp baking powder	3 large eggs
1 tsp salt	1 tsp vanilla extract
1 lemon (zested and juiced)	

Instructions:

- ◇ Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 9 in loaf pan or line with parchment paper. In a small bowl whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt, and set aside.
- ◇ Using a stand or hand mixer, cream the butter, ricotta, and sugar until fully blended. Add the eggs, one at a time. Mix in the vanilla, lemon juice, and lemon zest until combined. Now slowly add the dry ingredients until fully blended.
- ◇ Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake for about 55 minutes, until a toothpick comes out clean. If the top starts to brown, place a piece of aluminum foil over the top. Let the cake cool for approximately 15 minutes, then run a knife around the edges and transfer to a rack to completely cool.
- ◇ Sprinkle with powdered sugar, if desired. Serve with berries and cream.



Like with the wind, we don't know why the Spirit moved then or what breaks open our own spiritual lives. But lives do change then and now, and people come to live differently or more deeply.

Those early disciples met together to pray and encourage one another – they found it was a natural way to live. They shared the Lord's Supper week by week, and spent time together exploring the Scriptures.

They also handled their resources differently, according to their new perspective on being with others in the world. Rather than hold on to their own accounts in isolation, they gave generously for the needs of others and to support the new Church community.

Their focus as persons was no longer on themselves. (Now they didn't lose their personal identities – remember that the flames were distributed, a unique tongue on each one.) But together they focused on God's mighty acts and God's presence and mystery among them. That is what they spoke about across all the diversity of languages and experiences, and they understood one another!

Pentecost, birth and renewal are all new beginnings. They are gifts of grace in that we cannot make spiritual growth or birth or Pentecost happen. (The disciples did not make Pentecost happen – they received it as a gift.) We can wait and watch and clear away obstacles. We can be attentive, and not try too hard. We can be patient and open. That we can do. And then let us see – in our own lives and relationships and in this parish and the Episcopal Church (which is certainly groaning with some kind of labor) – where the Spirit will lead us. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Martin+

St. Andrew's Vestry Members

Rochelle Kelly, Senior Warden	Sara Hector
John Woolliscroft, Junior Warden	Sheryl Mello
Susan Greer, Clerk	Judyth Suttle
Cindy Garay	

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, please forward them to any of the Vestry members. Vestry meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 1 pm in the Parish Hall.

There will be a Celebration for the Life of Jeannie Henry on Sunday, August 25 from 12 noon to 3 pm at The River House, 200 Holiday Lane, Ben Lomond. Everyone is welcome. Her family encourages everyone to wear bright colors and festive hats.



St. Andrew's Birthdays

May Birthdays

2	Cindy Garay	12	Barry Holtzclaw
2	Sandi Lewandowski	18	Katie Garay
3	Cathy Newfield	21	Tim Caldell
7	Preston Boomer	22	Mike Banke
8	Janet Parske	28	Logan Hudson
8	Tricia Leslie	29	Mark deHass-Johnson
10	Jaden Ruff		

June Birthdays

2	Corinna Stevenson	11	Dawn Townsend
4	Laura Lewandowski	14	Bonnie Wolfe
8	Franceska Lewandowski	18	Joe Mello
9	Karen VanGroningen	21	Roxanne Spring
10	Jamie Mello	25	Duquan Ruff

Coffee Hour Organizers

- Ellen Terry (415) 516-9123 May 5.....This is the Chili Cookoff
- Shirley Greenwood (831) 423-8290 May 12 ...this is Mother's Day
- Barbara Banke (831)345-2992 May 19
- Susan Greer (207) 624-2569 May 26 (in place of Jennifer Kennedy)
- Eve Yabroff (253-225-8683 June 2
- Susan Greer (207) 624-2569 June 9
- Janet Parske (831) 246-1839 June 16
- Rochelle Kelly (408) 691-2571 June 23
- Ellen Terry (415) 516-9123 June 30

If you are unable to serve on any date, please call someone else on the list and also call Sharon Fishel at 831-247-5572.

HeeHeeHee!!!

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!'"



Don't miss the opportunity to join us for our annual in-person Spring Renewal on **May 17th and 18th** in Salinas. Unlike the Diocesan Convention, this event is open to everyone in the diocese.

Friday evening 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm:

- Gathering and Social Hour
- Banquet and Honors
- Compline

Saturday 8:00 am to 3:30 pm:

- Morning Prayer
- Session I with Bishop Hunn
- Session II with Bishop Hunn
- Lunch
- Session III with Bishop Hunn
- Conversation with Bishops
- Wrap-up and Eucharist

Registration:

\$175 for the full event (Father Yabroff is offering a 1/2 scholarship for anyone who would like to attend.)

\$80 for Friday night includes banquet dinner and awards program

\$100 for Saturday includes lunch and program by Bishop Michael Hunn, Diocese of Rio Grande

Registration closes May 7. <https://www.realepiscopal.org/blog/spring-renewal-2024/?occurrence=568>

Thoughts from a Parish Member



A recipe for success. Easter to Pentecost.

Christianity only takes two ingredients. However, they are essential and mandatory. Science has long given explanations for facts about the universe. The earth is flat. The stars are constellations which are really gods like Orion shining down on us. I read a newspaper from 1860 which scientists said that Cholera was spread by electricity. Newton gave us the law that for every action there is an opposite and equal reaction. That initial ignition which set the spark in motion and created the universe was what philosophers call “the first cause.”

Christians call that first cause, God. That is the first ingredient of Christianity. God’s spark of life created everything. Every religion has a creation story. However, they all hinge on a diety. When God looked “down” at us (according to the old testament books) he sent prophets and sages like Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joshua, Job, etc. In modern times he sent people like Ghandi, Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, Harriett Tubman, Father Damien and so many others. However and most importantly, he sent Jesus who showed us the way of the cross. He is our example that our willingness to die for love begins our journey to life everlasting.

Therefore the second ingredient of Christianity is belief in the resurrection. The story of Thomas tells it so well. Here is a disciple who only believes what he can see (like many people), touch, and feel. Jesus then appears to him and invites him to touch his wounds. On doing so, his entire being, his conscience life, the fiber of his existence, can only utter five words. “My Lord and my God” in profound realization of the truth of the resurrection.

For the next two thousand or so years, religion has set about defining Jesus’ message and the resultant religion. Religions debate what kind of mustard seed, to the kind of mud Jesus used, to the cause of leprosy, to the correct way to baptize, to relegating the last supper ceremony requiring priests to perform transubstantiation, and only give the last supper to confirmed Christians in good standing -- ad infinitum. . How far has religion strayed.

If our way is the way of the cross, somewhere between Gethsemane and Calvary we have gotten lost. We have stepped into the quagmire of church politics, We have missed the simplicity of Jesus' message that God is Love, that God loves us, that we need to love one another without conditions, and that anything else falls short of why Jesus died and was resurrected.

Eucharistic Prayer C says, "you made us rulers of creation, but we turned against you... and each other." We all walk that fine line between good and evil. When we injure others by our thoughtless words, when we fail to love another, when we engage in an "eye for an eye" behavior, we stop being those shining examples of discipleship which Jesus intended us to be.

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Alleluia. Alleluia, ALLELUIA!

Two ingredients: God started it all and created something fathomless. Jesus was crucified and then rose and ascended into heaven. End of recipe. We, as Christians, need to stir, simmer, and create a world of love. Please don't get lost on the way to Calvary. It takes us all working together in the spirit of love to make this fragile earth work.

In the spirit of His love, Steve LaFever



There are two kinds of people in the world: Those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

Senior Warden's Message

Psalm 119:114

You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.

We are teetering on a precipice in our country and on our planet. What we have to help us through is our special and loving community at St. Andrew's and hope in the arms of our Lord. Times are not always easy, but we look to each other and hold strong to our devotion to peace and love.

+Rochelle

This was submitted by

Mary Joanna Neish

Katie, Age One

She loves

To laugh

And

Shake her curls



St. Andrew's Activities

Prayer Team

We have an active prayer team at St. Andrew's led by Sue Roe. When a prayer concern is made known to Sue, she sends it out to the group so they can be praying for you. Please contact Sue if you would like some prayers.

Also, if you would like to be one of the pray-ers, let Sue know and she will be happy to add you to the group.

Please contact Sue at Phone 562-243-4080, or by email suemhr@aol.com



Outreach Committee

If you know of or support a non-profit organization and would like it to be considered for a grant from St. Andrew's, please provide information on its programs to the Outreach Committee. The members of the committee are Susan Greer, Joan McVay, and Ray Rischpater. We are also looking for additional committee members, so if you are interested, please contact Susan, Joan, or Ray. The committee meets after Bible Study, generally on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Girl Scouts have taken a break for the summer.

ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholic and Dysfunctional Families) meet every Wednesday evening upstairs.



Join us for Eucharistic Services on Sundays at 10 a.m. and the social hour after. The sermon may be watched on St. Andrew's Facebook page, if you are not able to attend in person.