

# Blessed Tidings

Heritage Presbyterian Church \* 1400 East Second Street \* Benicia, CA 94510

May 2010



**Pentecost**

## Spiritual Gifts

Sunday, May 23, is **Pentecost Sunday!** Pentecost was originally a Jewish festival celebrated 50 days after Passover. (Pente signifies 50.) This feast was a time when the people renewed their covenant with God, and remembered the giving of the law to the Jews.

According to Acts 2, the apostles and other believers were gathered in one place to celebrate this Pentecost when there appeared tongues of fire and an unseen wind, called a “ruach” or “the breath of God.” This ruach gifted the people with the Holy Spirit. And, it enabled them to go out into the crowds of people who had gathered in Jerusalem from all over the Roman Empire. They were able to speak so that all could understand their message in their own native languages.

What an incredible gift! Peter preached his first sermon, and over 3000 believers were added to their number. Can you just imagine 3000 baptisms in one day? So, in the church, this is the day we consider to be the BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH!

We will tell and sing about this amazing story on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and we’ll be having other special things in worship as well – you won’t want to miss it! And, **DON’T FORGET** to wear red and gold and yellow colors to signify these flames!

Pentecost is about more than just this one day, however. In fact, most of the rest of our calendar year will be the Season of Pentecost – also called the Season of Ordinary Time. This is the season when we seek to live filled with the

## Fruits of the Spirit

from Galatians 5:22:

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

And, Pentecost is the season when we also seek to grow in our understanding and use of our own

## Spiritual Gifts

What are these gifts, you ask? Spiritual gifts listed in the Bible include the following:

Wisdom	Knowledge	Faith
Prophecy	Teaching	Service
Healing	Tongues	Administration
Mercy	Giving	Evangelism
Encouragement		Miracles
Leadership		Discernment
Hospitality		Intercession

These are only some of the gifts that are listed, and they are given to us for the purpose of fulfilling the body of Christ. They’re not given to us to be hidden in a closet, but rather, to be used. **And, each of us has AT LEAST ONE of them!**

Spiritual gifts are not to be confused with our natural talents. Natural talents are skills we develop to accomplish something. But, a spiritual gift is what God does through us to accomplish something!

How long has it been since you took some time to consider your own gifts, and how God might choose you to use them in this church body?

Blessings!

*Beverly*



## Worship Schedule

- May 2<sup>nd</sup>**     **Youth Sunday**  
Communion
- May 9<sup>th</sup>**     **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 16:11-15  
John 14:23-29  
Two Cents A Meal
- May 16<sup>th</sup>**    **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 16:16-34  
John 17:20-26  
Birthday & Anniversary Blessings
- May 23<sup>rd</sup>**    **Pentecost**  
Genesis 11:1-9  
Acts 2:1-21  
Communion
- May 30<sup>th</sup>**    **Trinity Sunday**  
Romans 5:1-15  
John 16:12-15



**Let us keep the following members and friends in our prayers:**

Jane Oetting, Homer Kryger (brother of Karen Kryger-Cohea), Dr. Joseph Robinow (Jane Oettings' doctor), Faye Fredrickson (Andrea McFarland's friend with cancer), Jessie Nigosian (cancer treatments), Nina (confined to a wheelchair), Chloe (7 year-old with cancer), Darrell Courtney (complications from diabetes), Albert Oetting (Jane's Oetting father - congestive heart failure), Valerie (Karen Stierwalt's friend with bone cancer, and May Lamoreux (broken ankle).



## PENTECOST SUNDAY

Don't forget to wear the colors of fire: red, orange, and yellow, for our celebration of the Spirit!



### Adult Bible Study Opportunities

#### Sunday Morning Adult Study

9:00am

This month we'll continue to look at the scripture that we will be hearing in worship. It's a great way to be prepared for worship!

#### Midweek Bible Study

Completing synoptic comparisons of Jesus' death and resurrection

#### **Thursday Evening—7:00pm**

Revelations



Our youth are doing it again...

Please join us in supporting our youth on May 2<sup>nd</sup> for Youth Sunday!



## Check Out the Library!!!

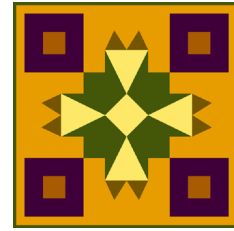
From time to time, our newsletter will highlight one of the texts in our new Heritage Library. The goal is to entice you to stop in “the old kitchen,” graze the rich shelves, and fill out a card letting us know a book has piqued your interest. Every few months, we’ll call just to be sure the book is still getting a workout with you. Here is our first “Check This Out” item.

The backbone of any library devoted to Bible study must surely be The Interpreter’s Bible; in fact, this crucial resource is usually not circulated at all. The Heritage Library is doubly blessed! Both the Reverend Karen Kryger-Cohea and the Reverend Laing Sibbett donated a complete set of this first-tier, multi-volume resource to our new library. That means that you may check out one volume and leave the duplicate in the library for others to use on site. Since this is such an essential resource, let’s try checking it out on a week-to-week basis. What makes this resource so helpful? In addition to helpful discussions of significant issues of Bible study and analysis, you will find the complete text of the Bible with scholarly exegesis and thought-provoking exposition accompanying the entire text. Whew! Check This Out!

## Feeding the Hungry



We are always looking for help at St. Paul’s. Please sign up – it helps with scheduling the workload. **Our day to help has been changed to the second Wednesday of each month.** (May 12, June 9, July 14, etc)



## MISSION QUILT RAFFLE

Our mission trip to Covelo is coming up in June. Do you want to find a way to contribute to the trip? Again this year a quilt has been donated to be used to raise money for our June Mission Trip to Covelo. We will be having a raffle starting Sunday April 25th, with the drawing on Sunday, June 6th. The tickets are \$1 for one, 6 for \$5. Remember, the more tickets you buy, the better the chance to win! If you have questions, talk to Karen Stierwalt (746-6664) or Barbara Wood (745-6353).



Sign up now!  
Summer Mission  
Trip June 12th – 20th  
Ready for a Vacation with a Purpose?

Again this year we are going to Covelo, which is 4 ½ hours north (on the way to Eureka).

We’ll be teaching Vacation Bible School as well as doing some painting and other construction work. A sign-up sheet is in Heritage Hall. If you have any questions, please talk to Karen Stierwalt (746-6664) or Barbara Wood (745-6353).



April 25, 2010:  
Ruminations from a  
seminarian-Theology

This past week was preparation for the second of three exams in theology class. I had no idea what theology was when I started the class, other than the study of God. What this class has been, is interesting, to say the least. The focus for this unit of study was on various portraits of God, starting with Calvin, the man who wrote a major treatise explaining the Protestant view, in terms of belief and sacraments shortly after the reformation. It is this view, soundly argued with scripture, reason, and experience, that is the basis of the Presbyterian belief structure today.

From there, we branched out to learn about the Third World view of who God is and how God relates to us in terms of liberation theology, the African American view of God who liberates, the Latino/a view of the God of the Fiesta, the Korean view of the God who needs our salvation, and the feminist view of God, one of mystery embedded in wisdom, personified by Sophia. I think the one thing that stood out for me among the various views, was the constant view of a faith in God and the grace extended to us through Jesus Christ. What changed was the context of the faith and how it was experienced, using a variety of metaphors which helped describe who this God is for the people in that particular situation. Think of the three blind men trying to describe the elephant. Each has a different view depending on what part of the elephant they are experiencing through touch. This can be applied to our understanding of the nature of God—each of us experiences God in a different fashion within our lives. It is this difference of experience which gives rise to different views of God.

Let me give an example: think of what it was like to be Africans who were taken from their country, separated from their families and dominated, sometimes very cruelly, by their masters. How could they reconcile this with a white version of God who was master of their life? They had no future and were kept in captivity, a heresy.

Continued in next column.

The God they chose to relate to was the God who led the Israelites from Egypt, who took the part of the oppressed and set them free. In Jesus, it was the God of the oppressed who was crucified unjustly, but was resurrected to give them hope. For the Latinos, it is God who walks with them and whose presence is with them in all things, in all places, a being one with beauty, seen and experienced within the support of the family in the daily experiences of life. As such, it is a God of the Fiesta, a celebration of life, a companion in Jesus who has experienced all the pain and suffering they may be experiencing, who walks with them every step of the way, supporting them. The feminist perspective seeks to widen the view of God as more than a male figure which is part of a hierarchy which in various times and places has unfairly oppressed women. I have just quickly presented several views, all of which can be validated by scripture and can be justified by their proponents through reason and experience.

Unifying these portraits is that each view supports the one true God, whose son is Jesus Christ, as described in God's word, the Bible. The difference is in the metaphors they use to access their belief in God. I have learned that the Bible has used many metaphors besides Lord and Father when describing God. I now agree with Calvin: the more metaphors revealed to us in the Bible, the more complete our understanding becomes of who this mysterious God is, and the incredible grace extended to us. Each one of us experiences God revealed to us in a different manner, and relates to God in the fashion we are most comfortable with. For some it is "Father", for others, "Mother", for others "Creator", for still others "Companion", "Lord", and/or "Source of all that is good". Whatever name you choose, remember: we all walk together in unity of our belief in a God of love through whose son, Jesus the Christ, grace has been extended. Thanks be to God! (If you want to know more, I'll be willing to share resources!)

Kaye Whitney





## 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is holding its 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Minneapolis, Missouri July 3-10, 2010. The theme for this year's assembly is *Rivers of Living Water*, taken from John 7:38: "...and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, *Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.*"

Four years ago, our denomination decided to change our annual meeting to a meeting every other year. The General Assembly (GA) is the highest governing body of this church and is representative of the unity of the synods, presbyteries, and sessions and congregations. Each Presbytery sends equal numbers of elders and ministers, with larger presbyteries proportionally receiving more representation, according to G-13,000 of our Book of Order. Middle governing bodies and representative agencies of GA appoint advisory delegates. Worship is an integral part of the proceedings.

There are four sources for General Assembly business:

1. Referrals from past assemblies
2. Reports, recommendations, and minutes from GA entities and governing bodies
3. Overtures from Presbyteries and Synods
4. Commissioners' resolutions

There are seven task forces/commissions formed by previous GA action reporting to this GA including a study on Israel/Palestine, the Belhar Confession, and the proposed new Form of Government. As of April 8, 2010, 107 overtures have been submitted for action, covering a wide variety of subjects such as synod functions, the time of GA, peacemaking, ordination standards, ecumenical relationships, etc.

Continued in next column.

GA Commissioners vote electronically, and all who are interested can view plenary business sessions through live video streaming. Book of Order changes are only made after both a majority of commissioners agree and a majority of Presbyteries agree with an overture that would amend the book of Order.

For more information or to view the live video feed, please visit: [www.pcusa.org/ga219/](http://www.pcusa.org/ga219/)



- 2 Kathy Manifold
- 14 Traci Vasquez
- 16 Laura Gourieux
- 17 Charlene Lucy
- 18 Karen Stierwalt
- 21 Liz Harvey
- Angela Owston
- 22 Susan Bonebakker

- 4 Lenore & Aaron Bezzerides
- 6 Michelle & Brian O'Leary
- 26 Angela & David Owston

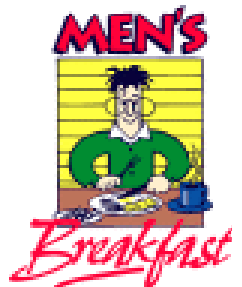


If we are missing YOUR special date, let us know in the office!

### **Birthday and Anniversary Blessings**

are given on the third Sunday of each month during Sunday morning worship. You are invited to participate in these blessings during the month of your birthday or anniversary.

The **Men's Breakfast** will meet at Pappa's (just up the street) on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am! If you have any questions, please call Bob Saxby (252-1634).





Westminster Woods isn't just for the youth, it's for everyone! We haven't done an "all church family" retreat in a few years. Would you and/or your family be interested in going to Westminster Woods this fall or spring? Westminster Woods is the church camp for our Presbytery located in the redwood forest of Occidental, CA. The retreat would be from Friday evening through Sunday noon. We would have a program planned for the weekend plus prayer, singing, worship, enjoying the beautiful grounds, and getting to know one another better.

Call (552-1858), e-mail (swatkins29@sbcglobal.net), or tell me at church if you would like us to plan an all family retreat.

Susan Watkins  
Christian Education Elder



## Graduation time is coming!

Is there someone in your family graduating from:

- grade school to middle school?
- middle school to high school?
- high school?
- college?
- military?

We would like to recognize them. We will do so during worship on Recognition Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> – but we need to know their names before. Please email them to us by May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you all for feeding us so well this year. And more importantly, thank you for sharing your time and yourself with us after our church services. It is nice that we have had to add another table and some more chairs, to accommodate more people in Fellowship. What a wonderful opportunity to get to know one another.

I hope everyone that came to the **Women's Lunch** had a good time. Be certain to share the word, so that we might have more people attending next year. And a special thanks for the generosity of our secret hostess.

As the school year winds to a close, we will have our traditional ice cream social following a potluck lunch on **Recognition Sunday**, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Then on **Father's Day**, we will honor those special fellows in our lives by sharing pizza after our worship service.

I'd like to have to pull out another table and some chairs, so please mark your calendar and plan to attend these upcoming events.

Sue Murphy  
Fellowship Elder



A shipment of fair trade chocolate bars is on its way, and will probably be available on the sales table in Heritage Hall by May 9. The Equal Exchange doesn't sell its chocolate bars during the summer months, due to the risk of them melting during shipment, so this shipment of chocolate bars will be all we get until October. So if you have any favorites, better buy them now before the supplies run out.



## Calling All 4th-12th Graders to Westminster Woods!

Our church has reserved the week of July 11-17 for Summer Camp at Westminster Woods! Go to [www.westminsterwoods.org](http://www.westminsterwoods.org) and check out Sherwood Forest (Grades 4 to 6), Buccaneer Camp (6-8) and High School (9-12), all the upcoming grade. Parents, get out a piggy bank for the kids, and start planning your own getaway!

Melody Seymour  
Susan Watkins  
Christian Education Elders



## Flamingo Flocks Flying!!!

For a mere \$20 to help the youth go to Westminster Woods, you can send a unique birthday, graduation, Mother's Day, or "just-because" surprise to a friend! Please call Kimberly Taugher at 747-5487 to arrange for the "flocking" complete with gift card and speedy removal.



We are traveling to Clear Lake to see the "Passion Play" where 140 actors and many live animals depict the last week of Christ's life. We will leave Saturday, May 15 (noon) and return on Sunday, May 16 in the afternoon. The cost is \$25 for gas and food. Please call Melody (747-0282) as soon as possible if you are interested in going.



<b>General Checking:</b>		
Beginning Balance	3/1/10	\$ 9,180.86
March Receipts		<u>12,807.84</u>
Funds Available		21,988.70
March Disbursements		<u>(12,555.91)</u>
Cash Balance	3/31/10	\$ 9,432.79
<b>Savings Accounts:</b>		
Memorial Fund		\$ 1,906.67
Reserve Fund		14,315.99
Building fund (Bank of the West)		<u>6,540.50</u>
Total Savings	3/31/10	\$22,763.16

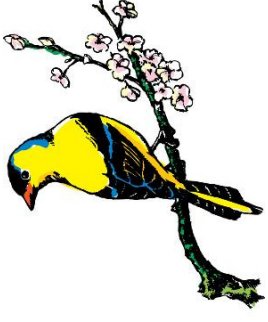
## Mother's Day Flowers!!

Pick up a blossom on your way into worship May 9 to honor the special ladies in your life. Flowers will be \$3 for one or \$5 for two to help send our youth to Westminster Woods in July.





# MAY 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2 5th Sunday of Easter</b> Communion Food Drive Youth Sunday/Brunch AA—5:30pm	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>9 6th Sunday of Easter</b> Two Cents A Meal AA—5:30pm	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>16 7th Sunday of Easter</b> Birthday/Anniversary Blessings Youth Return AA—5:30pm	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>23 Pentecost</b> Communion AA—5:30pm	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>30 Trinity Sunday</b> AA—5:30pm	<b>31 Memorial Day</b> Office Closed 					
						Ladies Luncheon- 1:00pm Youth Practice 4:00—6:00pm Men's Breakfast 8:00am Youth leave for Passion Play in Lakeport

# GOOD NEWS T-SHIRT

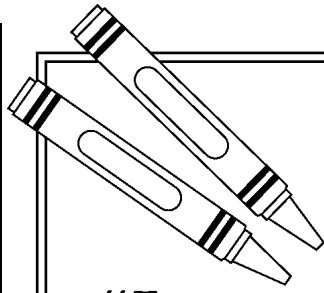
Jesus told his disciples — and us — to go into all the world and preach the good news. Wherever you go, this cool T-shirt will help spark conversations about your faith.

## What you need:

- Newspaper
- Cardboard
- Plain white, cotton T-shirt
- Permanent markers
- Goggles (optional)
- Eye dropper
- Rubbing alcohol
- Clothes hanger

## What you do:

1. Cover a table with newspaper. (Work outside or in a well-ventilated area.)
2. Place a piece of cardboard inside your T-shirt. (This keeps pen marks from going through to the other side.)
3. With permanent markers, draw a design of large circles, spirals, hearts, etc.
4. Wear goggles while dropping rubbing alcohol onto your designs with an eye dropper. As the alcohol permeates the permanent marker, the color will break up and spread in interesting ways.
5. Hang the shirt to dry.
6. When the shirt is dry, place cardboard inside it again. On the front, write “I have some good news to share with you.” You can also write a Bible verse.

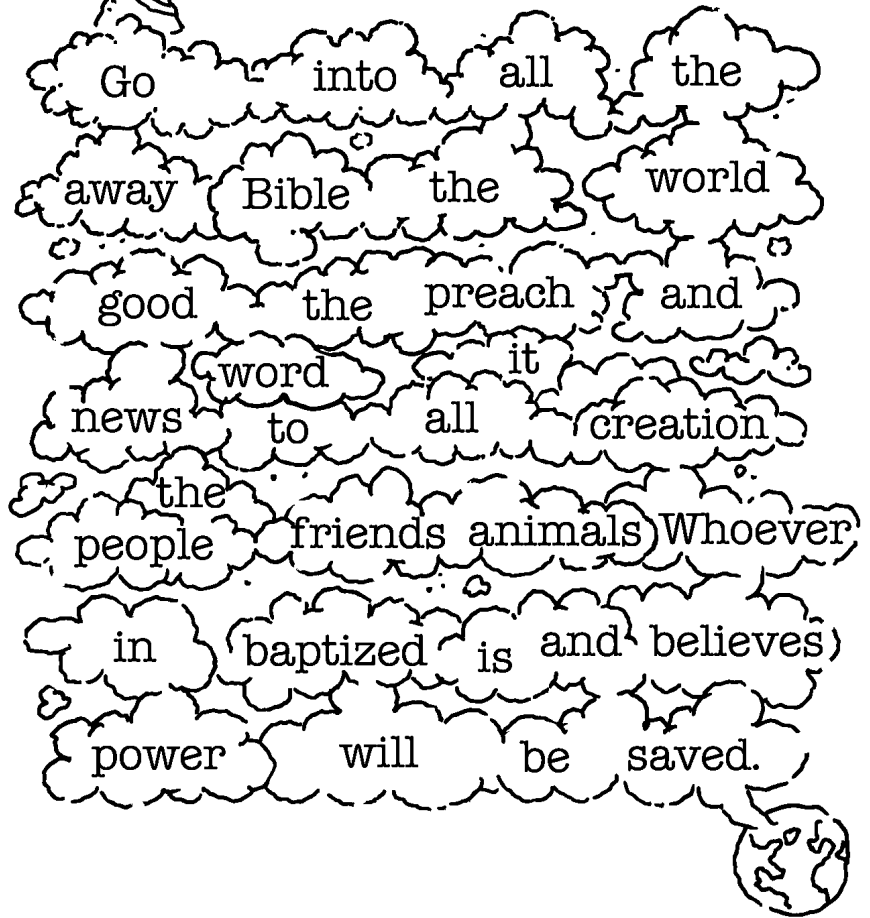


Just for **KIDS**

## “I am with you always.”

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he encouraged his disciples in the work they had to do. We, too, are Jesus’ disciples and should follow his same instructions.

Follow the words in the clouds to find Mark 16:15-16a, NIV.



Answer: “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” (Mark 16:15-16a, NIV)

## Youth Sunday and Brunch May 2<sup>nd</sup>



Support our youth by attending Youth Sunday and stay after for a delicious brunch put on by the youth to help raise money for summer camp at Westminster Woods.



## BRUNCH

Suggested donation \$5

### The Staff, Officers and Ministers of Heritage Presbyterian Church

Ministers: The Whole Congregation  
Rev. Beverly White: Pastor  
Rev. Bob Saxby: Parish Associate  
Joan Burnett: Church Secretary  
Andrea McFarland: Pianist and Choir Director  
Bob Fentress: Clerk of Session  
Brook Seymour & Cheryl Toth: Treasurers  
Phil Romer: Financial Secretary  
Joan Burnett: Newsletter Editor  
[info@hpcbenicia.org](mailto:info@hpcbenicia.org)  
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## Let heaven and earth praise him.

PSALM 69:34, NRSV

Blessed Tidings is published by Heritage Presbyterian Church

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**Dated Material!**

