

From the Partlow's

Pentecost is often called the birthday of the church. Why is this? It's the "day" according to Acts 2, when "they were all gathered in one place" and the Holy Spirit descended upon that community in a powerful way. From that time on, the message of Jesus Christ began to spread in word and deed. It was a time when the church grew and grew. Read Acts, hear the story of those early days.

But, what about today? Generally speaking the only churches that are spreading the Gospel to increasing numbers of people are those in the "Pentecostal" tradition (and Mormons). Protestant mainline denominations are in decline and have often been looked down upon by Evangelical churches, but the Southern Baptist have just completed their 7th consecutive year of membership loss. What is going on?

Do we need what Pope Francis calls "Restoring the Joy of the Gospel". Is there a new birthday on the horizon? Next Sunday at 9AM we will consider how Francis defines "the Church" and "the parish."

Faithfully,

Bob and Ruth

Announcements

The Search Committee. Jesse Gordon has assumed the responsibility of Chair of the Fork Church Search Committee.

Everyone likes to complain about “The Diocese”. Bob and Ruth spent most of Tuesday in a meeting of clergy new to the Diocese, with the three Bishops, and the staff. We heard the staff say over and over “If you need help with: stewardship; a capital campaign; youth or adult formation/education; planned giving; communications, congregational growth etc. CALL US...WE WILL COME FOR A DAY, A RETREAT, WHATEVER YOU NEED. The next time you are tempted to complain about “The Diocese” (and we all are), we encourage you to go to <http://www.thediocese.net/> and explore the vast resources that are available to us through our Diocese.

TAKE A WALK! Sunday, June 15 after church. The Vestry is considering various options for perhaps harvesting some of the timber from the Fork property. They are offering guided tours after church Sunday June 15th if you want to understand the options. You might want to wear “sensible” shoes, long pants, and bring bug repellent.

The Trinity Church Preservation Society has invited Fork Church to join them for the yearly service at Trinity Church Sunday, June 15 at 4:00 PM. Prior to the service there will be a picnic on the grounds at 2:00 PM. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated by the Rev. Bob Heatherington. A reception will follow the service. The Church is located at 18185 Teman Rd, Beaverdam, Virginia. The preservation society is in the process of raising funds so that they make needed repairs and historic renovations to the building. See the bulletin board in the church for more details.

Beginning, Sunday, June 15 at 9:00 AM, Bob and Ruth will lead a discussion and answer questions regarding the Pope's thoughts. No set pages to read, nothing you have to buy, just come when you can. We think young people could benefit from the discussion and we could benefit from their views! You can find the Pope's Evangelium Gaudium at http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html

The questions we will repeatedly ask are:

What are the implications for the Episcopal Church in general?

What are the implications for Fork Church in particular?

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, June 8 Day of Pentecost
At Mt. Olympus Farm 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist
Picnic and fun follows the service

Sunday, June 15 **Trinity Sunday**
9:00 AM Adult Sunday School
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist
Following the service – “A walk in the woods”

Looking ahead

Monday, June 16, 6-7:30PM Girl Scout Troop 429 Parish Hall
Tuesday, June 17 7-9PM Vestry Meeting Parish Hall
Sunday June 29, 5-7PM Outreach Dinner, St. James the Less