

Father Michael's Gospel Reflection

My Gospel Reflection for this week isn't about the Gospel at all. If anything, it's about what is recounted in our lesson from The Acts of the Apostles. So, let's just rename this post - for this week only - as my New Testament Reflection.

We read this week about that first Pentecost after Christ ascended into heaven. Pentecost was always an important feast in the Jewish tradition, but this Pentecost in particular gave us something quite new: a Church, the body of Christ! So, I understand our reason for celebrating, but why all of the Red? I get the liturgical color - red, the color of fire, symbolizes the Holy Spirit's descent in "tongues of fire;" but why are people who attend services on this day encouraged to wear red? We aren't expected to wear purple during Lent, Blue during Advent or Green or White in their liturgical seasons. What's all this fuss about wearing Red? Well, because it's fun, that's why.

Pentecost is a party - a birthday party! So, we dress up in Red to show our joy. But not all churches follow this joyful tradition. I am certain that some more self-styled "serious" Christians might either renounce or poke fun at our little symbolic gesture. Some might say that it is just a gimmick. Others might add that this practice is childish or foolish. To this I say: "Oh, lighten up!" The sea of red brings a special 'togetherness' to our worship. It symbolizes our celebration of community on this day. It is joyful. So there! After all, it's *the Church's* Birthday! The explosion of the Christian faith into the hearts and lives of people more than 1900 years ago on that First Pentecost signaled the coming of the Holy Spirit into human lives; and so the Church was born. The Spirit has been in the church ever since!

On that first Pentecost, God literally changed the course of history; and the power of the Holy Spirit continues to drive the Church and Christ's mission to this very day. Wearing red this Sunday is a simple, symbolic gesture; it doesn't mean much in the whole scheme of things, but the coming of the Spirit to us in Word and Sacrament now that is worthy of our attention! And that is worthy of celebration! Happy Birthday!

Peace
Fr. Michael +

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church!

June 9, 2019 Announcements

Church School and Youth Group are on Summer recess

Nursery care is available for children under 3 during the 10 am Liturgy in the first floor playroom of the Education Wing.

Annual Church Picnic-Today

Come join us after the 10 am service for our annual picnic on church grounds. There will be a bounce house, kids games, face painting, and great food!

Outreach Coffee Sale

The coffee sale will run June 8-9 & June 15-16, with delivery expected on June 23rd. All profits from the sale support Christ Church Outreach ministries.

The Rev. Dr. Cathy Bickerton

Congratulations to the Rev. Dr. Cathy Bickerton, on her retirement from Overlook Medical Center, where she served as Chaplain Educator for 40 years. All are invited to celebrate with her on June 26th, from 1 pm-3 pm at Overlook Medical Center.

Summer Schedule begins next week

All services will be moved to the **air-conditioned** Historic Church, with coffee and refreshments in the Summer Lounge after the 10 am service. Nursery care also will move to the first floor playroom in close proximity to the Historic Church. All three services will continue at their regular times throughout the summer: Saturdays at 5:30pm, and Sundays at 8 & 10 am.

Summer Office Hours

Tuesday thru Thursday, 9:00 am -1:00 pm, or by appointment.

Save the Date

Join us Sunday, July 21 at the 10 am service for Christmas in July. More details to follow.



Save the Dates for VBS: August 5—9, 2019

As you plan your family's summer vacation time, please save the dates for Vacation Bible School 2019! VBS is a free, fun-filled faith program offered to all children from 4 years old through fifth grade, featuring Bible stories, music, games, crafts, and snacks.

VBS is held in partnership with Middletown Reformed Church, and will take place in their air conditioned classrooms, just down the street from Christ Church on Kings Highway. Registration forms are available in the Narthex or you can register online at www.christchurchmiddletown.org/formation/vbs-registration

Teachers and teen assistants are needed to help with VBS.

Teachers are needed for grades 2 thru 5. For teens, this is an opportunity to earn community service hours while volunteering and helping out. Please contact Linda Malanowski at 732-671-2524 to sign up.

Calico GIFT AUCTION

Donations are needed for the Calico Gift Auction, which will be held on October 20th at Middletown Arts Center, just down the street from Christ Church. Baskets, ribbons, bows, gift items, or monetary donations will be gratefully accepted. Checks should be made payable to Christ Church, with "Calico Gift Auction" on the memo line. Your donations are tax-deductible. In order to make this a huge success for Christ Church, we need everyone's help. Advertising flyers and Tax Donation forms are available for your use. Tickets are available for purchase now, at \$30 each. For more information please contact Maria Kerfoot, Committee Chair, at 732-842-2310 or 732-859-2525. Thank you!

COG Household Goods Drive

We are now collecting feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, tissues, and plastic wrap for the Calico Pantry. Please place your donations in one of the little red wagons, located in both churches, and in front of the office. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

- Janet & Kate Chaballa

Graduates

Are you graduating from High School or College? If so, please send us your photo along with information regarding your graduation to: Office@christchurchmiddletown.org

High Chair needed for Family Promise Guest Children

Many of our FP guest families include children who need to use high chairs. The high chair we now have lacks effective child restraints, so a child could easily slip out of it and be injured in the process. If you have a high chair in good condition, ideally with a 5-point harness (shoulders, waist, crotch) and with no wheels or locking wheels, that you'd be willing to donate to Christ Church for Family Promise use (and parish use, if needed), please contact Barbara Garrity (732-888-7736) or Pauline Dawson (732-290-9435). Thank you!

Attention Vacationers

Bringing home small gifts from your vacation? Don't forget the sample sized toiletries found in your hotel room for Seamen's Church Institute who distributes them to mariners as part of their gift packs. Items needed are: unopened and unused soaps, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorants, skin lotions, etc., in travel sizes. Please place your donations in a plastic bag marked "SCI" and place in one of the little red wagons. Thank you!

Iced Tea/Coffee Hour

We are in need of hosts during the month of June. If you can't host then please consider donating snacks for coffee/iced tea hour. The sign up sheet is located in the Undercroft by the closet. Please contact Ronnie Warren at 732-671-8541, or Linda Malanowski at 732-671-2524. Thank you!!!

Summer/Youth Lounge

Looking for a few volunteers to help clean the lounge and help us get ready to host iced tea/coffee hour during the summer. If you are able to help, please contact Ronnie Warren at 732-671-8541.