



e - Votion

e-Votion for Wednesday, May 27, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We have our end of the year picnic with hotdogs and hamburgers in the Pavilion. Our friends from the Edible Food Forest will be joining us and then any of us who want to join them in their work in our neighborhood center yard are welcome and wanted! Even if you don't have a green thumb, the fellowship and stewardship of this little part of God's green earth will be great. :)

Did you know that we have a lady at the Neighborhood Center who sews and is ready to teach lessons, maybe do a few other things? Her name is Sharon Ritchie--Steve Reis has her information!

We are hosting a community event this Saturday. A celebration hike in the new Tennessee State Park: Rock Fork State Park in Unicoi. Meet at the church neighborhood center parking lot Saturday May 30 at 8 am.

This Sunday, May 31, is 5th Sunday breakfast and also a special time to honor Nancy Stevenson and Betty Spear for their long-lasting ongoing commitment to the children of our church. We are blessed by their love and wisdom in teaching :)

Also, this Sunday afternoon from 2-4, we will honor our recent high school graduates with a small reception. Please come to both these events Sunday!

Today I am reading Isaiah 6:1-8:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said, "Holy Holy Holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voice of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here I am, send me!"

This coming Sunday, the First Sunday after Pentecost, is always known as "Trinity Sunday." We celebrate God the Father, Creator, Jesus, the Savior and Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter and sustainer.

We celebrate the God who exists in "relationship with us" and with all of creation; a God who is even in relationship with God's very self.

I like to think of the cross as a symbol of the Holy Trinity and not just a symbol for Jesus Christ or an instrument of torture. If you think about the VERTICAL beam of the cross-- God coming down to earth, the "transcendent" becoming the "immanent." (Don't you love these big theological words?) The vertical beam could be thought of as the vertical dimension of our relationship with God. The horizontal beam (the one Jesus' hands were nailed to) could symbolize the Holy Spirit, the part of God that extends horizontally throughout the world, living and breathing in all that is. And the place where the two pieces of the cross come together, the heart, could represent the very heart of God, Jesus Christ, who loved US and all people so much he died there for us.



(I hope you can see this little cross I have inserted in here)

Most people are most comfortable thinking of God in terms of one aspect of the Trinity. Some of us pray to God/Creator. Some of us talk to Jesus all day long and half the night too. Not too many of us pray to the Holy Spirit-- the Holy Spirit might be the part of God that we understand the least.

Another great way that we explain and understand the Trinity is through the Apostles' Creed.... Think about it-- it helps us recite our belief in all three persons of the Trinity:

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth." GOD

**"And in Jesus Christ his only Son, Our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.**

The third day he rose from the dead

He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

JESUS

I believe in the Holy Spirit, HOLY SPIRIT

**the holy catholic church
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting.**

God is mystery--unfathomable, deeper and wider than our minds can ever comprehend. God exists in community, in relationship, and wants to be in relationship with us.

Maybe you are like Isaiah in this passage above (and like me, many days) and think "Who am I God that you would want to send me?" Maybe you think you are too sinful. Or you aren't good enough. Or you are caught in sin and can't get out. Maybe you think about the times that you miss the mark, the failures you have even though you have tried hard. It is not anything we do, and everything God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit do who reaches out to us, touches our lips, our hearts, our minds, our hands, our lives, and sets us free from not feeling good enough, and makes us worthy. And we can stand before God, along with Isaiah, and a whole lot of other people, and say, "Here I am Lord, send me."

Please pray for:

**Jane Eddy
Carrie Denny
Jerry Rust
Ellen Ferguson and her family--Ellen's sister is in hospice.**

"Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words."

St Francis of Assisi

Blessings,

Jane Taylor
First United Methodist Church
Johnson City TN