

# A Few Short Words...

by Pastor Phillip Short

## The Day of Pentecost

The Day of Pentecost is Sunday, May 23rd. I am looking forward to this day. Some of you might be wondering: "What is Pentecost?" Allow me to share some background with you on my way to the answer.

Jesus loved His disciples. He obviously forged a deep friendship with them as they traveled about together. They apparently grew to know Him and love Him as well. Jesus knew that He would leave them at the crucifixion, and He knew that He would leave them at the ascension. Because Jesus was a good friend and because He loved His disciples, He made a promise to them about how they would find comfort. Jesus said: "If you love Me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask The Father, and He will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth" (John 14:15-17a). He would go on to say that His loved ones would not be left as orphans. Instead, He said, "I will come to you" (John 16:18). Who was this Counselor and how would it work so as not to abandon us, but to comfort us? Jesus was saying that His Spirit would come to us. Jesus referred to the arrival of His Spirit as the delivery of "The Gift My Father promised" (Luke 1:4).

### **On the Day of Pentecost, the Gift that The Father promised was delivered.**

The Holy Spirit was given to the disciples on the Day of Pentecost. His Holy Spirit came and poured out His presence in baptismal portions right around nine o'clock that morning. Great and mysterious things happened. The disciples were given the ability to speak a very beautiful Spiritual language. They did not know this language, but the Holy Spirit enabled them to speak it. And when they spoke it, the people, even foreigners were given the ability to hear the gospel. Churches tend to argue about this beautiful occurrence, but I hope that we will not lose sight of the great things that God accomplished; namely, the deliverance of the Gift of the Father. The deliverance of this Gift was given to the disciples. What was given to the disciples then is given to the disciples of Jesus Christ even today. We too have the Gift of the Father. We too are not abandoned or left as orphans. If we have received the Holy Spirit, then we can know that Jesus has come to us. This is great news!

So many people think that they need to die and go to heaven before they can begin to enjoy the presence of Jesus. This is not so! We can begin to experience here in this life, on this side of Jordan. The day of Pentecost proves this to be so.

During the season of Advent, we frequently speak of Emmanuel; "God with us." That is a beautiful concept. The Day of Pentecost is a type of the Emmanuel concept because it reminds us that God is with us through the person of the Holy Spirit!

May the church continue to celebrate the Gift of the Father in those same indwelling, baptismal portions!

This leads to ...

### **Beach Baptisms**

Since the church received the gift and the baptism that only Jesus can bring on the Day of Pentecost, the Stuart First United Methodist Church likes to celebrate the Holy Spirit and baptism as well. We do this by celebrating what we have come to call "Beach Baptisms."

The church will gather at the pavilions at Jensen Beach on Sunday afternoon May 23rd at 4 o'clock p.m. You are invited to bring your own picnic lunch. We will gather and fellowship. Then we will make our way out to the waters. There will be some people who will be receiving baptism for the first time. They will be immersed and baptized in the name of the Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit and then brought up to take their first fresh breath of air. Others may want to "remember their baptisms." This is especially so for those of us who were baptized as infants. You too will be brought to the water. Your pastors will meet you there and simply say: "Remember your baptism and be thankful!" Then you likewise will be immersed and brought back up.

If you would like to consider baptism for the first time, please let me know. I would like to sit down and visit with you. We can make an appointment to talk if you call me at: 287-6262.

I am looking forward to celebrating the Day of Pentecost and Beach Baptisms with you!!!