

The George Whitefield ROCK

George Whitefield
UMC

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June 2001

FROM THE PASTOR

Pentecost will be celebrated this year on Sunday, June 3rd. Pentecost marks the end of the Easter season which began with our celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. The whole fifty days between Easter and Pentecost, including Ascension Day on May 24th this year, are a time for Christians to remember and celebrate all that God has done in Christ. After Jesus rose from the dead, he remained among his disciples for forty days, teaching them the meaning of his life, death and resurrection and promising them that he would be with them always through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Just before he ascended into heaven he instructed them to "stay here in the city [Jerusalem] until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24: 49b)

Continuing the story, Luke writes in Acts 1, "While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.... [He told them] 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'" The disciples did as they were told. They remained in Jerusalem praying together for ten days, until the day of Pentecost, which was a major Jewish holiday known as the Festival of First Fruits or the Feast of Harvest. At this time the first of the year's corn harvest was brought to the temple in Jerusalem to be offered to God, and many pilgrims from the surrounding countries were present in the city for this celebration. Acts 2 continues the story: "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability."

The disciples rushed out into the street speaking in the languages of the people gathered outside, which attracted much attention, as you can imagine! Some people were confused by what was going on, and some thought they were drunk, until Peter stood up before the crowd and explained what was happening. He told the story of Jesus' resurrection and explained that what they were seeing was the very power of the Holy Spirit of Jesus being released into the world. Peter's testimony, along with the witness of the disciples, was so powerful that about 3,000 people that day welcomed the message and were baptized.

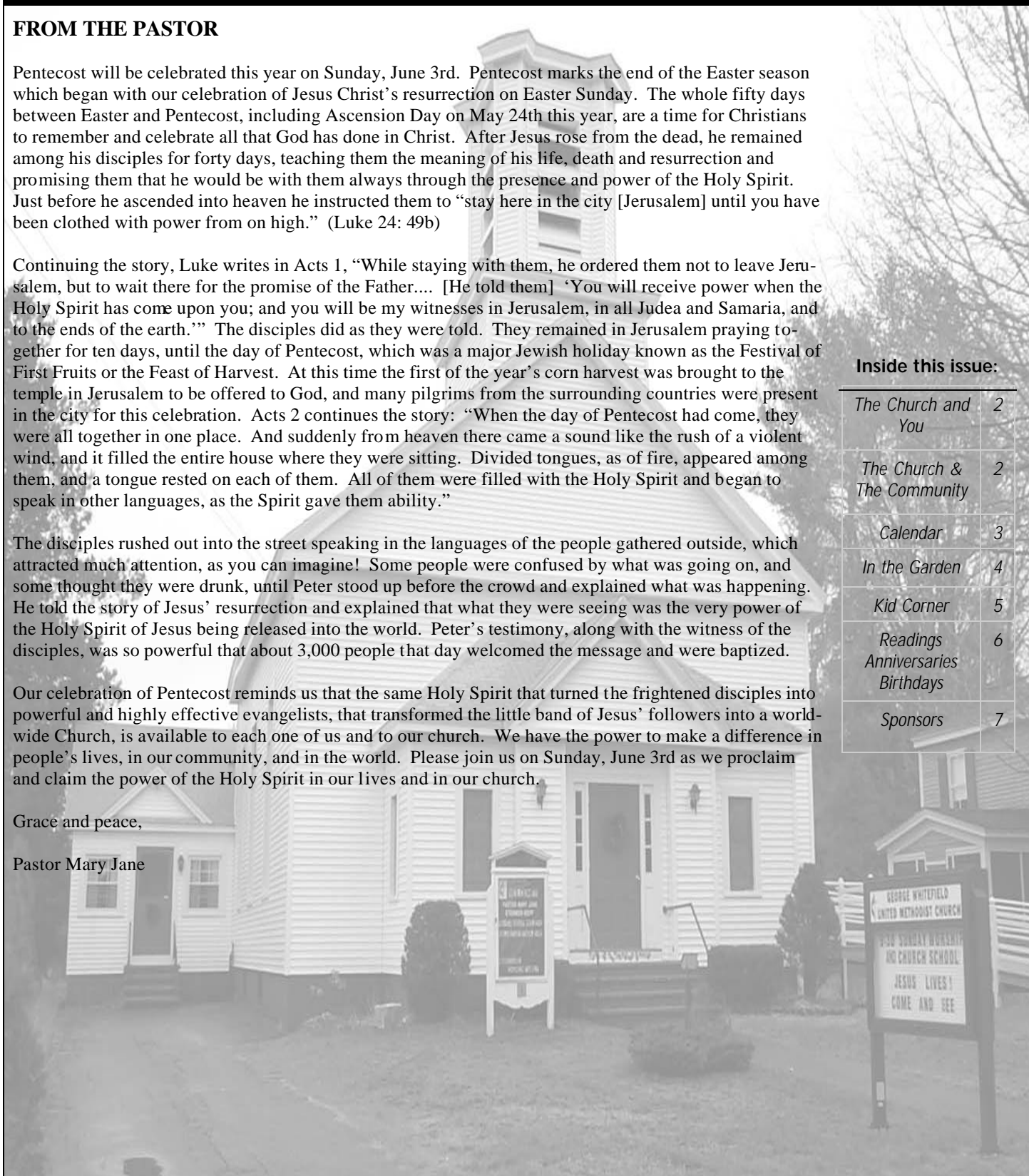
Our celebration of Pentecost reminds us that the same Holy Spirit that turned the frightened disciples into powerful and highly effective evangelists, that transformed the little band of Jesus' followers into a worldwide Church, is available to each one of us and to our church. We have the power to make a difference in people's lives, in our community, and in the world. Please join us on Sunday, June 3rd as we proclaim and claim the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our church.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mary Jane

Inside this issue:

<i>The Church and You</i>	2
<i>The Church & The Community</i>	2
<i>Calendar</i>	3
<i>In the Garden</i>	4
<i>Kid Corner</i>	5
<i>Readings Anniversaries Birthdays</i>	6
<i>Sponsors</i>	7



The Church and You

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY ON JUNE 3rd

We will also celebrate Children's Sunday on Pentecost, June 3rd. This is a time when we honor the Sunday School students and teachers and celebrate their presence in our midst. The newly formed Children's Choir under the direction of Melanie Merrill will provide the anthem that day.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUNE 6-9

Our Lay Member of Annual Conference, Marion Hunt, and Pastor Mary Jane will be attending the New England Annual Conference at Gordon College from Wednesday, June 6 through Saturday, June 9. This year's theme is spiritual renewal. There will be a number of opportunities to sample resources for the spiritual life as well as to participate in exciting worship services, in addition to the usual "business" of the Conference. Please pray for the Annual Conference and for Marion and Mary Jane as they represent our church.

COMPANIONS IN CHRIST COMPLETES PILOT PROGRAM

For the past eight months, 11 people from this church and two people from North Brookfield Congregational Church have been meeting in two groups as Companions in Christ. This was part of a pilot project in cooperation with The Upper Room in Nashville. Our church was one of only 40 around the country to take part in this phase of the program's development. Some of our feedback has been incorporated into the final published materials used for this 28-week course. Companions in Christ is a 28-week small group experience in spiritual formation. It is Biblically based, but is not Bible study. The goal is to help deepen the spiritual lives of Christians through prayer and meditation, sharing spiritual journeys, and seeking guidance and discernment for our personal lives and for our church. Those who took part made a big commitment of time and energy and are to be commended for staying the course. Most, if not all, of the participants reported that this was a very meaningful and enriching experience for them.

CONFIRMATION ON PENTECOST SUNDAY

On Sunday, June 3rd, Roseanna Ducharme will be confirmed. When Rosie was baptized as an infant, her parents took vows for her in which they professed their faith in Jesus Christ and promised to nurture her in the church and lead her, by their teaching and example, to profess her faith openly at some time in the future. That time is now. She will take those vows for herself on Pentecost Sunday. Rosie has been attending Sunday School and church all her life. She recently began teaching Sunday School and is doing a wonderful job with the children. She and the pastor have met seven times for instruction to prepare her for this event. Let us welcome Rosie with joy as she claims the promise of her baptism for herself.

CHURCH SUPPER ON JUNE 16th

A supper featuring strawberry shortcake (and oh yes, ham, beans, and other non-dessert items) will be held on Saturday, June 16th at 6:00 p.m. at the church.

The Church and The Community

WEST BROOKFIELD ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

The last meeting of the program year will be held on Monday, June 11th at the George Whitefield UMC. This will be a potluck supper at which the WBEC award recipient will be honored. Each year the WBEC gives an award of \$300 to a graduating senior who is a member of one of the churches in the community. This year's winner is Kevin Landine, a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. All are welcome to join Kevin and his family for this potluck supper.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars – the ecumenical Vacation Bible School will be held once again at First Congregational Church from Monday, July 30 through Friday, August 3rd. This is for children ages 4-12. We will need volunteers to teach and lead activities as well as to help provide healthy snacks. If you would like to help out, please speak to Pastor Mary Jane.



June 2001

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June Calendar of Events

No choir rehearsal until September
 No more Companions in Christ

- *Sunday, June 3 – Pentecost, Children’s Sunday, Confirmation – 9:30 am
- *Monday, June 4 – Wings & Hands Craft Group – 7 pm at church
- *Tuesday, June 5 – Worship Committee – 7 pm at parsonage
- *Wednesday, June 6-Saturday, June 9 – New England Annual Conference at Gordon College
- *Sunday, June 10 – Trinity Sunday – worship at 9:30 am
- *Monday, June 11 – West Brookfield Ecumenical Council Potluck Supper and Award Presentation – 6 pm at church
- *Saturday, June 16 – Strawberry Shortcake Supper – church at 6 pm
- *Sunday, June 17 – Father’s Day – worship at 9:30 am

CALENDAR – REGULARLY SCHEDULED

Wednesday at 2:15 pm – Prayer Group (at parsonage)
 Wednesday at 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal (at church)
 Thursday at 3 pm – Lectionary Bible Study (at parsonage)
 Friday – Pastor’s day off

Last Sunday of the month – Hymn Sing at 9:15
 First Sunday of the month – Holy Communion

Last Monday of the month – Wings and Hands Craft Group at 7 pm (at church)
 First Thursday of the month – Holy Communion at Quabog Nursing Home with Pastor O’Connor-Ropp, 10:30 am

In the Garden

THANK YOU

Liz Sanford wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and other kindnesses during the recent illness and death of her father.

MY GARDEN

A poem by Liz Sanford

When it's solitude I'm seeking
 And from cares I must depart,
 To my garden in the back
 I bring my heavy heart.
 It is there His peace comes flowing
 Like dawn's early light
 Bringing soothing comfort
 And composure back in sight.
 I find strength to meet tomorrow
 From the lessons learned today,
 And know my Lord's beside me
 Lovingly pointing out the way.
 In my garden, I shall pray.



Coffee Host Notice:

"TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR OUR SUNDAY COFFEE HOSTS, THE NURTURE COMMITTEE IS MAKING SOME CHANGES IN COFFEE HOUR: WE WILL SERVE CRACKERS AND CHEESE AND MUNCHKINS (DONUT HOLES). THE DOUGHNUTS WILL BE PAID FOR WITH MONEY OUT OF THE DONATION DISH BUT THE HOSTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PICKING THEM UP AND SUPPLYING THE CRACKERS AND CHEESE. COFFEE, PUNCH AND CREAMER WILL BE SUPPLIED. THE CHILDREN WILL BE SEATED AT THEIR OWN SPECIAL TABLE. "

DOT BAILEY WILL BE TAKING OVER AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE NURTURE COMMITTEE AS OF JUNE 1ST.

ANOTHER REFLECTION ON GARDENS

Rev. Lisa Bruget-Cass of Wesley UMC in Worcester, MA offered the following in their church newsletter:

FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

1. Peas of mind
2. Peas of heart
3. Peas of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce by patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

NO GARDEN WITHOUT TURNIPS:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends.

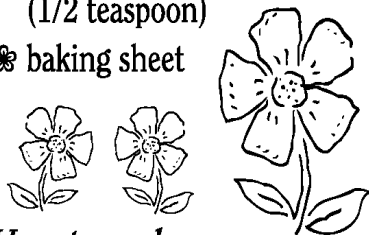
WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE. THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

Make a Snack:

Praise Posies

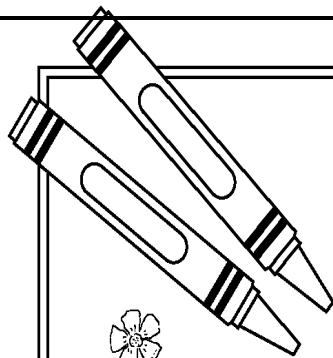
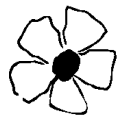
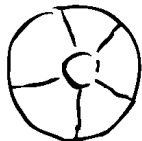
You will need:

- ✿ 1 tube of refrigerated biscuits
- ✿ 5 teaspoons of jam or jelly
- ✿ kitchen scissors
- ✿ measuring spoon (1/2 teaspoon)
- ✿ baking sheet



How to make:

- ✿ Make 5 cuts on the edge of each biscuit. (Don't cut all the way to the center.)
- ✿ Press the center with your fingers or thumb to make a dent.
- ✿ Fill the center with jam or jelly (1/2 teaspoon).
- ✿ Bake at 450° for 8-10 minutes or until golden.
- ✿ Share them with a friend while they're still warm!



Just for KIDS

Joyful Psalms



Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 are joyful songs!
They all begin and end with the same sentence.

Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares.
Read down the second column to see the sentence from Psalms.

FEAST
KHAKI
MOUTH
ESSAY
LLAMA
ORBIT
CARRY
UDDER
BRUSH
ITEMS
APPLE
LEARN
CIDER

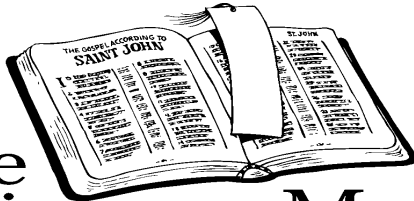
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Answer: _____ !

Scripture Readings: Notice

Each month I will publish the readers for each weeks scripture lessons. It is requested that you read from the Lectern Bible. If you can not be in church on the week that you are scheduled to read, please arrange for someone else to read in your place or contact Paul Chicoine or Rev. Mary Jane. Pastor Mary Jane is willing to give tips/lessons to anyone desiring them. Also if you are interesting in being included in the readers list please notify Paul Chicoine at 436-7744.



Bible Readings for the Month

May Scripture Readings:

- 3rd - Acts 2:1-21
 Paul Chicoine Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826)
 Romans 8:14-17
 John 14:8-17 (25-27)
- 10th - Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
 Charlie Reim Psalm 8 (UMH 743)
 Romans 5:1-5
 John 16:12-15
- 17th - I Kings 21:1-21a
 Marion Hunt Psalm 5:1-8 (UMH 742)
 Galatians 2:15-21
 Father's Day Luke 7:36—8:3
- 24th - I Kings 19:1-15a
 Liz Sanford Psalm 42 (UMH 777)
 Galatians 3:23-29
 Luke 8:26-39

Need a ride to Church???

If anyone in the local area needs a ride to church on Sundays or to any church function or meeting, please call Judith Bartlett at 867-3002 or the church office at 867-3667 for help in making arrangements.

Also, if you are willing to give anyone a ride, please have your name put on the driver's list in the church office.

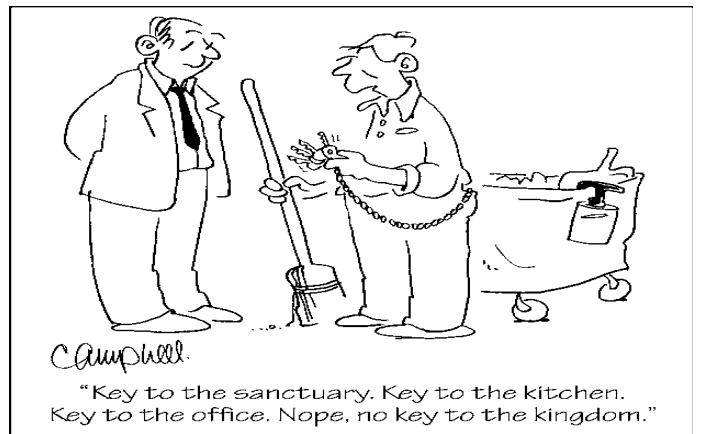
THANKS !!!

**Birthdays & Anniversaries****Happy June Birthdays**

Adam Gerhard	6/1	Kane Williamson	6/2
June Theberge	6/3	Micheal Chicoine	6/4
Eric Gerhard	6/7	Daniel Bartlett	6/9
Evelyn Armitage	6/15	Phyllis Adams	6/17
Isabel Carpenter	6/22	Marge Reim	6/28
Ardell Marona	6/28		

Celebrating Anniversaries in June

Pam & Ray Andrews	6/7
Albion & Lezlie Prindle	6/15
Stew & Marie King	6/21

**The Grief and Loss Support Group**

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALONE IN YOUR BE-REAVEMENT"

The last Wednesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. Sponsored by the **WEST BROOKFIELD COUNCIL on AGING** at the Senior Center, 27 Front St. Everyone is welcome. For more information call Frank Halloran 867-2497.

AN OPEN INVITATION

The George Whitefield Rock welcomes any and all submissions. We reserve the right to edit or reject any material. This is your newsletter, please feel free to make any suggestions to the pastor or the editors. Also if you would like to share your loved ones birthdays and anniversaries please send them for submission to the editor.

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George Whitefield UMC

33 West Main Street
P.O. Box 576
West Brookfield, MA 01585

Pastor: Mary-Jane O'Connor Ropp 508-867-3667
Editor: Paul Chicoine 413-436-7744
Email: mareropp@aol.com or pcetc@usa.net

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33 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585
PASTOR: Rev. Mary Jane O'Connor Ropp --- P.O. Box 576, West Brookfield, MA 01585 867-3667
EDITORS: Paul Chicoine & Rosalind Ducharme --- 570 Cronin Road, West Brookfield, MA 01585
436-7744 (evenings & weekends)
Terri Ducharme --- 6 Richardson Road, West Brookfield, MA 01585 436-7296 (anytime)