



The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring
Pastoral Message
June 2010

Pentecost 2010

Sunday, May 23, we join Christians around the world in celebrating Pentecost, one of the “high holy days” of our faith tradition. Christian celebrations of Pentecost commemorate the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out on the early apostles who founded the Christian Church. Some think of Pentecost as the birthday of the church.

Christian celebrations of Pentecost are grounded in the Ancient Hebrew’s feast of Shavout, which commemorates God’s gift of Torah to our ancestors.

According to Acts 2, the earliest apostles (who were all Jews) were in Jerusalem for the feast of Shavout and were trying to discern God’s purposes for their lives, now that Jesus no longer walked the earth.

The apostles’ discernment process led them to understand that they were being called to pray and worship, teach and learn, care for themselves and their neighbors, fellowship with each other, and invite others to be part of their community.

This year at Eden, we observe Pentecost by recalling all of the important historic reasons that Christians have always celebrated this occasion, and we confirm a dozen of our youth to the Christian faith and welcome them into full church membership.

The energy, imagination, and creativity that each of our confirmands brings to the church are signs of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives. Each is a means by which we experience the infusion of God’s creative spirit in our common life, and each is a reminder to us of God’s eternal capacity to renew the church and to do new things in and through us.

So I encourage you to come and worship with us this Sunday, with your heart wide open, and revel in the work of the Spirit which is reflected in our young people. Come celebrate all that they have accomplished. And don’t be surprised if the Spirit grabs hold of you, as it did the early apostles, and moves you to do something new and bold—something that you have never quite imagined before.

Arlene