

True Home

The story of Pentecost opens on a community gathered in a safe-house space, utterly emptied of hope, of grounding.

What is the *sound* of a whole community together in one place, all breathing together?

It is the sound of mind-chatter ceasing, of prayer, of being connected by breath—and sorrow.

This is the sound of emptiness, of wisdom to know that only what is empty can be filled.

The sacred Hebrew word *ruach* is both breath and wind. *Breath* is *wind* is *breath*. Can you imagine all those Jesus-followers, all those Galileans together, breathing something much larger than an individual breath, creating an immense gale-force wind?

Emptied of all but the breathing, they rediscover the Spirit within, promised by their great teacher. They reconnect with divine power—where the Spirit is, where that teacher is, is true home.

Who doesn't long for true home?

What devout pilgrim, Jew or not-Jew, would not run towards it with full abandon?

And what is home but where you recognize what's familiar, where you hear your own language, your own voice?

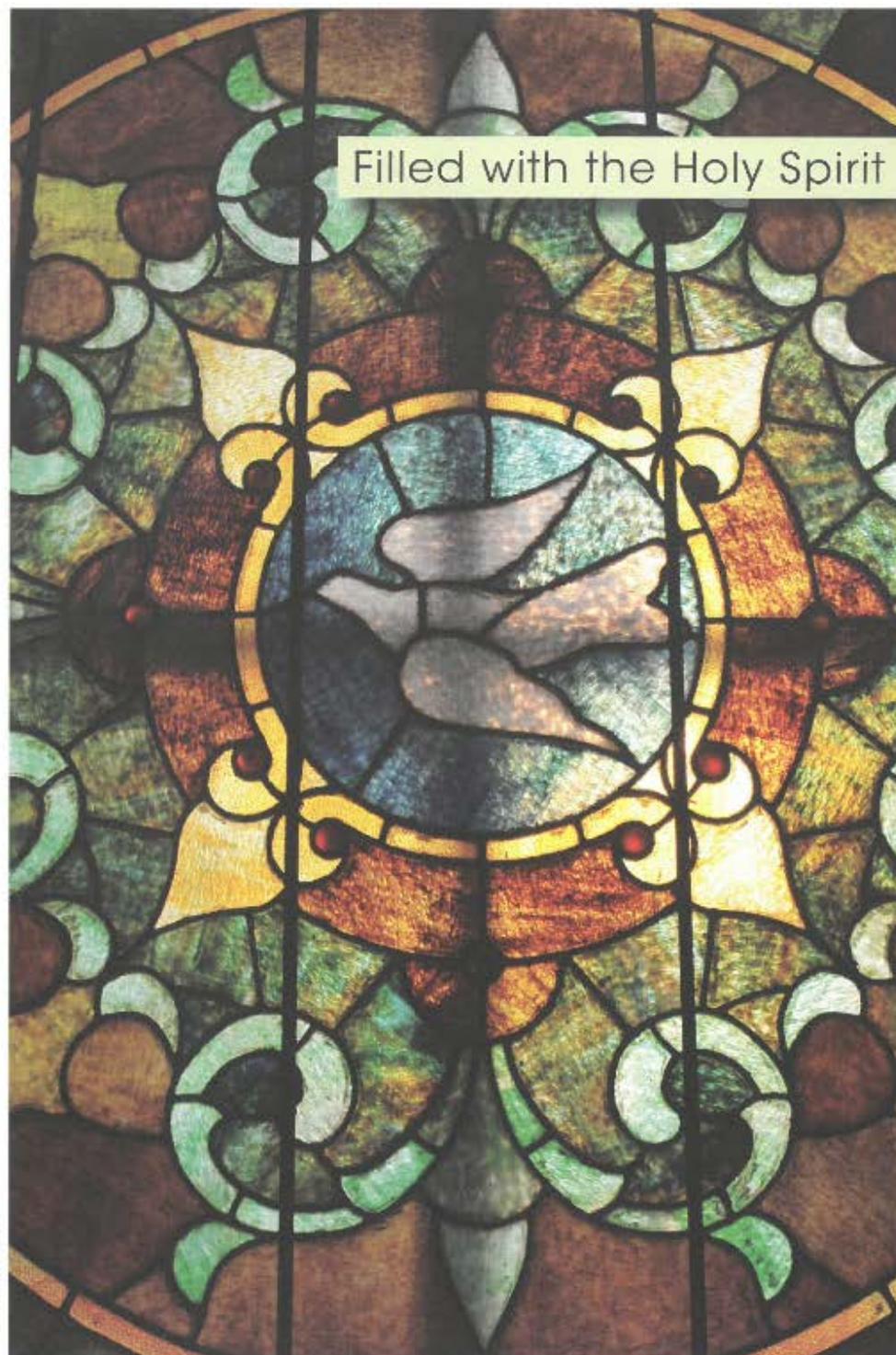
I'm a human full of language, inspired when words are beautiful, delighted by how they leapfrog and skip and laugh when they land just so.

Yet beyond them there is a place, the sages teach, where debate and languages fall away. Where all is God. You just know. No words. Home.

—Lani Wright
Cottage Grove, Oregon

Text for today: "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" (Acts 2:1-4, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, (25-27).

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BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship May 15, 2016 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

We breathe air that circulated in the rain forests of Kenya, and air that turned yellow with sulfur over Mexico City. We breathe the same air that Plato breathed, and Mozart and Michelangelo, not to mention Hitler and Lizzie Borden. Every time we breathe, we take in what was once some baby's first breath, or some dying person's last. When Jesus let go of his last breath -- willingly, we believe, for love of us -- that breath hovered in the air in front of him for a moment, and then it was set loose on earth. It was such pungent breath -- so full of passion, so full of life -- that it did not simply dissipate as so many breaths do. It grew, in strength and volume, until it was a mighty wind, which God sent spinning through an upper room in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

~Barbara Brown Taylor, "The gospel of the Holy Spirit," in *Home By another Way*

GATHERING

PRELUDES (11:00) from Das Orgelbüchlein: *J.S. Bach*
"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"
"Let All Together Praise Our God"
"Come, God Creator, Holy Ghost"

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

Please sign and pass the *Friendship Register* pad located at the inside aisle of the pew. Signing helps us learn the names of those worshipping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST Acts 2:1-21 *Biblical Storyteller*

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~Sing the Story #189, adapted

One: Come, Holy Spirit – lamplighter, midwife of change, comforter, disturber, inspirer, and advocate.

All: Come, fill the church with the gifts earth can neither produce nor afford.

One: Come, fill our lives with that rich mixture of peace and restlessness, calm and enthusiasm, which are hallmarks of holiness.

All: Come, promised Spirit of God – find your way and make your home among us!

***HYMN # 26** *Holy Spirit, come with power* BEACH SPRING

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Tony Stovall
Children of ALL ages are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a time of building upon and connecting to faith through stories and interactions.

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.

(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

Voluntary on DOWN AMPNEY *John Barr*

Prayer of Dedication

***HYMN # 501** *Come down, O Love divine* DOWN AMPNEY

SCRIPTURE READINGS John 14:8-17, 25-27; Romans 8:14-16 *NRSV*

SERMON "Of Friendly's and Fire and Fear" Chris Zepp

RESPONDING

REFLECTIONS (8:30) Music for contemplation, followed by conversation.

ANTHEM (11:00) A Rushing, Mighty Wind *arr. Lloyd Larson*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Robert Alley

***HYMN # 289** *Filled with the Spirit's power* BIRMINGHAM

***BENEDICTION** ~Homiletics, adapted

POSTLUDE (11:00) Festive Voluntary *Robert Lau*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

May 15-21, 2016 (All events are p.m. unless noted)

This is a church events calendar and does not include all building events use.
Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS through the church office.

Today	9 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
	9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic	Office Reception
Tues.	7:00 Food Pantry	Social Hall
Wed.	7:00 Board of Administration	Seekers Room
Thurs.	7:30 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

NEXT SUNDAY– May 22, 2016 – 1st Sunday after Pentecost
“Trinity Sunday”

Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Pastor Jeff Carr, preaching

Sermon: “3 in what?”

Scripture Readings: Psalm 8 & John 16:12-15

Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m. – Choir Room

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m. – Classrooms

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*An inclusive family of faith seeking to follow Jesus
and live the love of God.*

Our Mission...

As an inclusive community of faith, we commit ourselves to embody the love of God and to share our diverse lives and gifts with each other and the world. Through faith formation, worship, mission, and fellowship we boldly proclaim the peace and love of Christ. Together we work for justice, extend grace, and partner with God to offer abundant life, healing, and hope to our community and the world.

Our Values...

*Sharing life together and including all persons in our common life.
Growing in faith, compassion, and understanding.
Serving one another and our neighbor's good.
Sharing the love of God and the God that is love.*

PASTORAL MINISTRY STAFF

Jeff Carr – Senior Pastor

Chris Zepp – Associate Pastor

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF

Fortunato Correa – Custodian

Phil Flory – Treasurer

Shannon Puffenbarger – Administrative Assistant

Leon Rhodes – Head Teller

Glenna Wampler – Business Manager

PROGRAM & MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Kathleen Arndt – Child Care Center Administrator

John Barr – Organist

Jim Benedict – Bell Choir Director

Jeanie Eye – Christian Education Director

Mary Beth Flory – Pianist

Marianne Houff – Children's Choir Director

Ellsworth Neff – Sound, Light, Video Coordinator

Curtis Nolley – Sanctus Choir Director & Music Coordinator

Clarke & Hope Staton – Youth Ministry Coordinators

CONTACT INFORMATION

420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

www.bwcob.org / (540) 828-3711

Normal office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-Noon, and 1-5 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION & TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

HOSPITALITY CENTER in the Greeting Hall

Nametags; large-print Bibles, hymnals, & bulletins; listening receivers; and information are available here.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 a.m.

All Are Welcome brochures, available in the pews and literature rack, list specific Christian Education opportunities and locations.

PARKING ASSISTANCE: 10:30-10:55 a.m. every Sunday.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

Children are always welcome among us and in our corporate worship gatherings. Activity bags are available in the greeting hall for their use and enjoyment. Additionally, childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten is available as well as a "cry room" for those who wish to listen and see the worship service in a separate room from the sanctuary. Ushers are more than willing to help you locate these resources.

Greeters (8:30) – Chuck Clouse & Nancy O’Baugh

Pianist (8:30) – Cindy Fike

Fellowship Host – Tim Kreps

Greeters (11:00) – Ruth & Steve Watson
Heather & Jeremy Driver

Head Usher (11:00) – Kevin Keplinger

Sound/Light (11:00) – Skip Eger & Dean Neher

Decorators – Lisa Houff & Dwyann Stovall

Deacon Caregiver – Penny Keplinger

Van Drivers – Melvin Wampler & Palmer Lee Berry

Worship Leader – Robert Alley

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: David Music

A rushing, mighty wind roars through a crowded room,
And tongues of fire upon their heads disperse the people's gloom.
God's Spirit blows the wind and lights the blood-red flame.
A Pentecost of tongues explodes in praise of Jesus' name.
Three thousand souls that day, in mind and heart were stirred,
And these were added to the church as they believed the Word.
Lord, make our breath a wind and let our tongues be fire,
And, as at that first Pentecost, Your people's lives inspire. Amen.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIVING STATEMENTS for the first quarter of 2016 are available for pick up in the greeting hall today. Any help delivering statements to neighbors / friends / family will be greatly appreciated!

THE VALLEY 7 – a local chamber vocal ensemble in which our Children's Choir Director, Marianne Houff, is a member – will be performing David Lang's "the little match girl passion" today at 3:00 p.m. in the art gallery of Duke Hall at JMU. This 2008 Pulitzer Prize winning setting of Hans Christian Anderson's classic fairy tale, written in the format of a Bach Passion, is sure to leave each audience member touched through its haunting melodies and sorrowful, yet hopeful storyline. Admission is free; donations accepted.

GRADUATE INFORMATION REQUESTED

If you are aware of someone who has, is, or will be completing their course(s) of study during this school year (high school, college, or graduate school), please contact Pastor Chris or the church office with their name and info so that they can be recognized in a future edition of *Connections* Newsletter.

DISASTER RELIEF AUCTION: May 20-21

The Shenandoah District Disaster Relief Auction will be held at the fairgrounds Friday & Saturday, May 20-21. More details can be found on the poster on the large bulletin board near the hospitality desk and in the Disaster Relief Auction Booklets. Direct all inquiries to Doris Harsh at 828-6547. New this year will be John Kline activities, stories, and crafts for children on Saturday. Kids can even see "John Kline" and his trusty horse "Nell"!

ATTENDANCE /STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 5/8/16

Worship Attendance:	8:30 – 21	11:00 – 311	Sunday School: 173
	Pledges & Envelope Giving		\$17,352.08
	Loose Offering		636.76
	Church User Fees		200.00
	Food Pantry		100.00
	<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions		29.00
	Rent – Refugee House		650.00
	Wednesday Night Meals		136.00
	Seekers Sunday School Class		50.00
	Carl Lineweaver Memorial Fund		70.00

~ Leon Rhodes, Head Teller