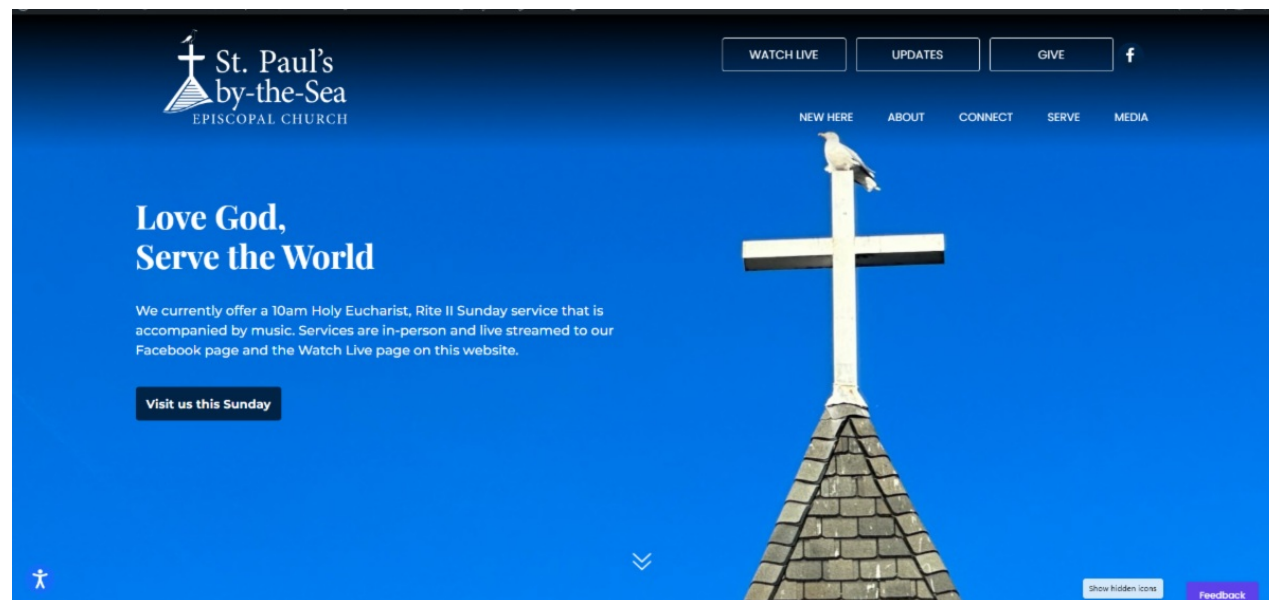


St. Paul's by-the-Sea

Weekly news & updates

May 26, 2023



New SPBTS Website is Live

We are pleased to announce that our new website has launched! The site has been completely re-designed with new photographs and updated information. The address is the same www.stpaulsbythesea.org.

You will notice that this re-design includes changes in the way we present information. The menu uses words that are new to us: New Here, About, Connect, Serve. Our primary intent is for those looking for an Episcopal church in Ocean City to easily and immediately know who we are as a parish. Our secondary intent is to be informative for parishioners and visitors alike.

We want everyone to visit the website often. You will be able to watch our service live streams on the website, rather than having to go to Facebook. There will also be a Blog that will contain timely posts from a variety of sources, including Pastor Jill and fellow parishioners. The website will be updated often, giving everyone a reason to come back and see something new.

As you may remember, the weekly newsletter was started during COVID, when we couldn't be together, as a way to maintain a sense of community. We wanted to be in touch with parishioners on a regular basis. Please consider the church website an extension of that on going effort.

As you are looking through the site, please be aware that we are still working with D3 on text corrections, a few updates, and app settings for directing the live stream to the Watch Live page.

New Here

- Directions & Parking
- What We Believe
- Episcopal Life
- Contact Us

About

- Who We Are
- Clergy & Staff
- Parish Leadership
- Parish Life
- Facilities
- History & Architecture
- Pare Los Latinos

Connect

- Worship With Us
- Become A Member
- Sacraments
- Pastoral Care & Visits
- Contact Us

Serve

- Serve the Church:
Altar Guild
Choir
Lay Ministries
- Serve the Community:
Shepherd's Crook
NOEL
Labyrinth

Media

- Blog
- Calendar
- Service Bulletins
- Newsletters
- Social Media

Watch Live

Updates

Give



Excerpts from Wendy Thomas Russell's "Pentecost is this Sunday. What the heck is Pentecost?"

From a Historical Perspective: Christianity didn't start with Jesus' birth, his death or even his storied ascension to heaven. It started with Pentecost — the day the "Holy Spirit" entered a room holding Jesus' apostles and entered each of them, an event which — as my minister uncle tells me — "makes the church the church."

On a Scale of 1 to 10: The importance of Pentecost depends on the person. My uncle, a Presbyterian minister, put it like this: "To me personally, as religious observances go, Easter rates a 10, Pentecost a 7 and Christmas a 6. But the average member of my church would probably say Easter was a 10, Christmas an 8 and Pentecost a 3."

Back Story: At his Last Supper, Jesus legendarily instructed his 12 disciples to go out into the world to minister and heal the sick on their own. It was at that point that they became “apostles.” Fifty days after Jesus’ death, as the story goes, the Holy Spirit (part of the Holy Trinity — God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit) descended onto the apostles, making them speak in foreign tongues. This “Pentecostal” experience allowed the apostles direct communication with God, which signaled a major shift in the religious landscape and laid the foundation for what would become Christianity.

Celebrations: Pentecost, which shares roots with the Jewish holiday of Shavu’ot, isn’t associated with feasts or elaborate traditions. Generally, it is a holiday marked in liturgical churches. Because the holiday’s liturgical color is red, to symbolize the apostles “tongues of fire” and also the blood of martyrs, sometimes Christians will dress in red or decorate churches with red. Many churches hold baptisms and confirmations on that day, as well.

Wendy Thomas Russell, 'Pentecost is this Sunday. What the heck is Pentecost?', *pbs.org*, NewsHour Productions LLC, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/pentecost-sunday-heck-pentecost>, (25, May 2023)

Don't forget to wear red on Sunday!



Reflection on Ascension Sunday

My beloved Diocesan Family,

“... Glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you.” John 17:1

The Christian Church in its wisdom has arranged the ordering of its liturgical life in seasons. Each season speaks to a particular theme germane to the individual time of the year and the gospel focus that needs to be emphasized.

The world is rapidly changing at a pace many of us are unable to keep up with and as a result more often than not we get frustrated, confused and overwhelmed. What’s the natural response to this uncomfortable phenomenon? Refusal to comply or get acclimated thus denying ourselves a role in fashioning the new fabric. Conversely, others greet the new challenges with enthusiasm, renewed joy and gleeful anticipation. They see all as new opportunities and see through the lens of experimentation – reshaping and reforming tried and tested ways of engaging life and the meaning of their existence. Someone recently referred to this era as working in a ‘zone of disequilibrium’, that is, experimentation where the outcome is always uncertain and full of surprises. This is similar to the early church’s response to the post- resurrection experiences including the events surrounding the ‘*Ascension Narrative*’.

The significance of Ascension is that it underlines the exaltation of Jesus, and is a fitting conclusion to his ministry. Also, it authenticates his message about his relationship with the Father and his imminent return (*Greek Parousia*) at a time appointed by his Father in heaven. Sadly, in the Anglican/Episcopal liturgical culture it has never held a prestigious or prominent place in the church’s liturgical calendar.

Ascension Day on Thursday, May 18, and Ascension Sunday’s observance is a

confirmation of the faith of the people of God in Jesus as Savior, and that our life in him is embodied in an inseparable bond with God. Every Christian enters this union through baptism in Jesus, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Jesus both reassures and comforts his followers in one of my favorite New Testament texts, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” (John 12:32). What this requires of us is a relentless commitment to pursue the way of life the ascended Christ calls us to live. By this, we become witnesses both in word and action, to the living Christ by pointing others to the way of life he himself lived, and to which the ancient saints sacrificed so much to define and refine through their spiritual writings and autobiographies. Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain what we, the members of his body, have to bear. He showed this when he cried out from above: “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? And when he said: “I was hungry and you gave me food.”

Augustine of Hippo reminded the church that, “Jesus did not leave heaven when he came down to us; nor did he withdraw from us when he went up again into heaven. The fact that he was in heaven even while he was on earth is borne out by his own statement: ‘No one has ever ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.’” These words are explained by our oneness with Christ, for he is our head and we are his body. No one ascended into heaven except Christ because we also are Christ: he is the Son of Man by his union with us, and we by our union with him are children and heirs of God. So, the Apostle says: “Just as the human body, which has many members, is a unity, because all the different members make one body, so is it also with Christ.” He too has many members, but one body.

As we prepare for the Church’s observance of the coming of the Holy Spirit (celebrated on the Feast of Pentecost, Sunday, May 28) to what many have come to fondly refer to as the *‘birthday of the Church’*, let us recommit our corporeal life as a diocesan community of faith and even our individual life to laboring with Jesus for the transformation and redemption of our neighborhood and community. The Spirit continues to work through faithful followers of Jesus to make sacred the secular world. It may do us well to reset the trajectory of our vocation to live in solidarity and conformity with the purpose of God for the world and creation.

As usual, my prayers are for your protection, guidance, sustenance and the Spirit’s comforting presence be yours now and forever! Amen!

Every blessing!

+San



[Click here](#) for a PDF of the 5/28/2023 English bulletin.

[Click here](#) for a PDF of the 5/28/2023 Spanish bulletin.

[Click Here](#) to watch the 5/21/2023 Holy Eucharist, Rite II service.

Prayer List

Please keep those on our prayer list in your daily prayers.

Robbie Whittington Joyce, Cindy Dreslin, Kyle Harmon, Shirley Connor, Jose Cabrera, Ryan Fischer, Katlyn, Letty Trimper Hurst, Fr. Joe Rushton, Connie Mayers, Doug Dryden, Brian Friedman, Grace, Randy Hastings, Frank Candeloro, Jr., John Seward, Stephanie Hill, Douglas Allan, Yvetta Henry Tull, Jean Charles, Jimmy Farley, Alex Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Larry Lorton, Dee Toms, The Lecates Family, Hunter Berry, The People of Ukraine, Jennings Whittington, Michael Hallett, Hannah Johnson, Gordon Clark, Hugh Smith, Ralph Hastings, Cathy Wist, Frank Avallone, Rev. Laura Dorsey, Mary Wright, Yipsy Noel, Andy Diaz, Alan Farley, Liana Wallman, Betty O'Key.

Worship Leaders Schedule

This Sunday - May 28, 2023

Celebrant: Pastor Jill Williams

Reader: Nancy Knotts

Altar Guild: Amanda Cropper, Kay Ayres

Usher: John Knotts

Next Sunday—June 4, 2023

Celebrant: Pastor Jill Williams

Reader: Dan Harris

Altar Guild: Amanda Cropper, Kay Ayres

Usher: Kay Ayres

Counters: Amanda Cropper, Amy Rothermel



Birthdays

Kevin Ball (5/31)

[Click here to view the Parish Calendar](#)



St. Paul's by-the-Sea | 302 N. Baltimore Ave, Ocean City, MD 21842

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