Practical Pentecost for 2016: Feed My Starving Children
by Rev. Paul A. Clark, Church Consultant and FBC Deacon

Memories of Pentecost of years past bring to mind the Bible lessons and stories from Sunday School classes, sermons, liturgical colors, scriptures read in various languages, and memories of flags of many nations hanging from balcony flag stands. Yet, for me the experience of Pentecost remained more story lesson and sermon than experience and community, at least until May 13-15, 2016.

What happens when the unity of the Spirit links with the powerful wind of cooperation that combines with a mass of people who are focused on a common ministry goal for the good of the needy? At what point in reality does unity within diversity become less theory and more real experience?

On Saturday morning, May 14, more than a thousand people came together in a large warehouse of the Dulles Expo Center to participate in a project called “2016 Food Fight”, sponsored by the NorthStar Church Network. The focus of this project, over a year in the making, was to prepare more than 5 million meals for starving children from around the world.

Gathering around hundreds of tables, each unit linked together like a square box, seven or more people worked in an assembly-line fashion to scoop up, funnel, bag, weigh and seal a meal for a child. Each bag contained six meals and each box contained 36 bags of six meals each to be mailed to Christian organizations located in each country who distribute food to the children.

My work station on Saturday morning included a five-year-old, a youth, a young adult, a middle adult and an older adult working in harmony to create a meal. At a nearby table, I heard several persons joyously conversing in their native language. Someone near me had come from a non-NorthStar church in Maryland. It was a strange and encompassing wind that blew this day. In the background there is music playing, bodies are moving in rhythm, some dancing while they work, and others smiling and enjoying the movement. Practical Pentecost is happening!

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In the Kairos time of God’s spirit, many gathered here to serve a world of needy children, binding together persons who knew not one another and who likely shared different theological values. But, we were pulling together to share the love of God in a practical way that serves the hungry.

Five million, forty-four thousand, four hundred and sixty-four meals (5,044,464) were prepared at ten work sessions during two and one half hours each. Twelve thousand, nine hundred and two people (12,902) worked together in teams for three days to accomplish a big, bold goal. Only God knows how many human hearts were able to gratefully say at the end of their shift, “Thank-you God” for allowing me to serve on this mission.

In a world that is in need of both spiritual and physical food, “2016 Food Fight” brings to mind a new meaning of having eyes to see and ears to hear, along with hearts willing to serve the outpouring of the Spirit. For me, as one participant in “2016 Food Fight”, my involvement brought home the fresh experience of a Practical Pentecost.

Pastor at CBF General Assembly This Week

Pastor Julie is in Greensboro, NC, this week for the 25th annual General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. She returns on Saturday and will be in worship this Sunday. Please pray for this year’s Assembly, and for all who have traveled this week to Greensboro for spiritual inspiration, illumination, action and friendship.

Church Council Meeting Set for Sunday, June 26

The first council meeting of the new church year is scheduled for Sunday, June 26 in the Meadows Room immediately following the worship service. Council members who wish to submit a written report are asked to do so by noon Friday, June 24 so the report can be copied for distribution at the meeting. Any committee or group wishing to be recognized on the agenda for an oral report or presentation is asked to notify Moderator Lucy Plovnick at lhp@msk.com no later than noon Friday, June 24, to facilitate preparation of the agenda.

Season of Prayer Verse: 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

Read - Reflect - Respond - Rest - Remain
The Update: Changes Coming in July

Bi-weekly newsletter with a new, fresh format
Starting July 14th the Update will be emailed on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month (with paper editions sent to those without email). This schedule is a return to our former practice of publishing a bi-weekly newsletter rather than every week. In addition to the new publication schedule, the Update will have a fresh, new look.

When: The first new edition will be sent on Thursday, July 14th. In addition, an email containing time-sensitive announcements will be sent every Thursday in the “off” weeks. More announcements also will be posted on our website.

Why: A bi-weekly schedule will free up our office staff for other mission-critical tasks and projects.

Goal: To keep our church family connected with each other and informed about the movement of God inside and outside our church.

EfM Informational Meeting this Sunday
Education for Ministry (EfM) is a lay theological program at First Baptist. On June 26, immediately following the worship service, there will be an informational meeting about the program in the Conference Room. If you cannot be there, but are interested in EfM, please contact Ellen Parkhurst at 703-683-1273 or elparkhurst@verizon.net.

First Sunday Potluck and Origami!
Does origami fascinate you? Ever wondered how it is done? Want to try? Then join our own FBC origami expert, Bettye Robinson, as she teaches us the Japanese art of folding paper into shapes. We will gather after the potluck meal on Sunday, July 3, in Fellowship Hall. To ensure that she has enough supplies, you are requested to register for this fun family activity by calling or emailing Julie Pascu at 301-530-5258 or juliepascu@starpower.net. Bettye welcomes all ages. Please join us!

Potluck luncheon on Sunday, July 3
On Sunday, July 3, our next potluck luncheon will be held in Fellowship Hall. Please bring family members, friends and co-workers to worship with you, and bring enough food to share with our many guests.

A-J: dessert and fruit

K-R: meat

S-Z: salad and vegetables
Summer Small Group Outing

Rockies vs Nationals on Sunday, August 28

Watch the bulletin and Update for more information.

By the Numbers

126: Worshipers on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, June 18-19
76: Adults, youth and children who gathered on Sunday, June 19, for Bible study, conversation, choir rehearsal and friendship
450: Sandwiches prepared for Martha’s Table last Wednesday

Building Closed

In observance of Independence Day,

Monday, July 4

Installation of Julie Pennington-Russell

Set for Sunday, September 18 at 4 o’clock

Pastor Julie’s formal installation as the 19th Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church is scheduled for Sunday, September 18th, 2016, at 4 o’clock p.m. The guest preacher will be Paul Nixon, author of “I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church!”, and a member of our neighbor, Foundry UMC. A festive reception follows the service.
Scenes from Sunday ...

Deacon Ordination and Installation
WEDNESDAY, June 29
11:00  Staff Meeting/Conference Room

SATURDAY, July 2
11:00 - 6:00  Building Open
12:00  FBC Basketball
       5:00  Mosaic Worship/Side Chapel

SUNDAY, July 3
  9:30  Church School for all ages
  10:00  Choir Rehearsal/Room 312
  11:00  Worship
       Sermon: Passing the Baton
             Pastor Julie, preaching
  12:00  Potluck Luncheon and Origami/FH
  2:00  The Church of the Good News of Salvation,
       (Spanish Language) Rev. Saúl García,
       Dawson Room

MONDAY, July 4
Building closed in observance of Independence Day

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, June 26
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
2 Kings 2:1-15
Psalm 77
Galatians 5:16-25

CHURCH STAFF:
Julie Pennington-Russell, Pastor, jpr@firstbaptistdc.org
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Save the Date
Fall Fellowship
Cookout/Picnic
Mark your autumn calendars! The Fall Fellowship picnic is Saturday, September 24, at Rock Creek Park. We’ll share more details as the date approaches.