

	Volume 11 Number 12	First	May 2009
		<i>Press</i>	

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Special Features

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Building faith-filled relationships with God, one another, and the world.

On the Journey

Grace and Peace to the Saints in Boise,

So Paul might have begun a letter to our church. There was no real distinction in the early church between members and friends. The friends who were followers were the saints of the early church. Following Christ, together in fellowship, and freely sharing in worship and all things were the hallmarks of the first Christian. These remain fruitful benchmarks of the church today.

To friends like these, we say: We need your help.

First Presbyterian makes a real difference in the world as far away as South Africa and as close as the 9th Street Y Kids program. First Presbyterian is the place where the hope of Christ is heard in worship, the wisdom of the Spirit is received in study, and the loving justice of God is practiced in mission and daily life.

Our church is in real financial need. In part this need is the by-product of the larger financial difficulties that many of us are facing. In part this need may be generated by our being unclear that every gift we receive is crucial to our continuing ministry.

I know that First Presbyterian is your church, your spiritual home during this part of your life. I do not believe that we have, in recent years,

done our best at expressing our need, our hope, and our expectation. I hope we are doing that educating and asking now as well as possible.

I believe that First Presbyterian folks are capable of extraordinary efforts. We do rise to the occasion when asked and informed. I want you to ask yourself in the next few weeks, "Why is First Presbyterian my home, what does my church need, and what can my church do with my help?"

On Sunday, May 31, we will gather for worship to dedicate our pledges of financial support for our faith community. As you prepare to make your pledge, I hope you will ask the questions for which you want answers and participate in the after-worship conversations that will be occurring throughout the month.

Thanks for being a part of us. Thank you for helping each of us to build faith-filled relationships with God, one another, and the world.

Blessings and peace,



Mark

From the Editor

The deadline for the June 2009 issue of *First Press* is Sunday, May 10. If you have a problem getting material to me by the 10th, **please contact me well in advance of the deadline.** Of course, early submissions are ALWAYS very welcome indeed; don't hesitate to send articles whenever you think of something that ought to be in *First Press*, and it'll go into files right away.

Material can be sent electronically, as separate files in Word or WordPerfect or as e-mails, to judyaustin40@yahoo.com. This is a different address from the one I've used before; it's somewhat more reli-

able! ***If your story includes a picture or other graphic, please send it as a separate file as well as within the story itself; that gives the layout people more flexibility.*** Stories can also be put as "hard copy" in the First Press folder attached to the desk in the outer church office.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please don't hesitate to e-mail me at the above address, call me at 327-0053, or write me at 6508 Hummel Drive, Boise 83709.

Thank you!

Judy Austin

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Are You Listening or Just Talking?

Most of us think of prayer as a conversation with God.

Because the God we meet in scripture invites us into a personal relationship, we often speak to God from the heart as if we were in a conversation with a friend. This can be a fulfilling form of prayer. However, if this is the only form of prayer we practice we may sense that something is missing. Too often our conversation turns into a monologue that borders on talking *at* God. Some of our prayers resemble a sort of spiritual shopping list of our needs and wants. I am not suggesting that prayers of supplication are wrong. Jesus encourages us to ask with open and persistent trust for what we need. Luke 11:9-13: *So I tell you: Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, although you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*

Yet if our prayers only take this form, it will lead to more frustration than fulfillment. Our prayers will begin to feel like a one-way phone conversation where all we hear is the sound of

our own voice. We might wonder whether we have been heard or if anyone is even listening.

As in all conversation, dialogue with God is a two-way conversation that requires listening as well as speaking. Clear communication, as we know, can be difficult in person even with the advantage of expression, inflection, gesture. How much more difficult it is to communicate with one who is invisible, intangible, inaudible. Yet God desires to be known by us and has many ways of communicating with us if we will only listen. To be in true communication with God, as with any meaningful conversation, requires us to be present with the one we are communicating with. God is always present with us whether or not we feel this as reality, and we need to be present to God in our daily lives... throughout our lives, not only when we are talking to or *at* God.

If we are open to the Spirit, God communicates with us through the scriptures, through the writings that are intentionally called God's word. Using the Book of Common Worship Daily Prayer (I will be happy to provide one for you) is helpful in establishing the habit of reading scripture and praying daily. Developing any habit that is good for us requires conscious repetition until it becomes a "habit."

Often we hear God's voice through one another. Perhaps someone who



knows us well speaks just the word we need to hear in a way we can grasp. Perhaps a perfect stranger appears at just the right moment and offers a word of encouragement or warning.

In all circumstances of our life, God communicates with us. Happy coincidences and frustrating dilemmas of daily life are laden with messages. Patient listening and the grace of the Spirit are the decoding devices of prayer. It is a good habit to ask, "What is God saying to me in this situation?" Listening to our lives

is an important part of prayer.

If, or when, you wonder if God is ever going to answer your prayers, listen. God may not answer our prayers in the way or in the time we would prefer, yet the response will come if we are present and open and listening. We may not get what we want, but God will always provide what we need.

Blessings,

JoAnn

From the Library

The April issue of *Presbyterians Today*, the PC(USA) magazine (available for reading in the library), calls attention (p. 4) to the 500th birthday of John Calvin, the theologian who most shaped our tradition. If you'd like to learn more about Calvin, check out one of these books: *Calvinism*, by Arthur Dakin, or *Instruction in Faith* (1537), by John Calvin. Read also *Our Presbyterian Heritage*, by Paul Carlson, to learn more of John Knox, student of Calvin and theologian who started the Presbyterian Church.

These books were acquired recently:

Twelve Ordinary Men and *Twelve Extraordinary Women*, both by John McArthur. The first tells of the disciples, "imperfect people used to accomplish God's perfect will." The second is about women from both Old and New Testaments and how God used them to bring about his miraculous plan.

If you have read any books by Diane Ackerman, a best-selling naturalist (*A Natural History of the Senses*, among others) and storyteller, you know you'll enjoy reading *The Zookeeper's Wife*. This is a true and fascinating tale of the Holocaust that took place in Poland. An incredible story, beautifully written!

We welcome suggestions of books you would like to have available here, and we also welcome your contributions of books (in good condition) for *all* ages. Please come in any time Sunday following worship services or any weekday when the office is open. The librarians are usually in the library Tuesday afternoon from 1 p.m. until around 3 p.m., if you want help. It is self-service; follow the posted directions for checking out books.

*Kathleen McClenahan
for the library crew*

Joanna

Being the Church—
Even More!

Last month I wrote about “Being the Church” not simply meaning going to church. I think I hit a nerve for some folks. Questions and comments have come— not hundreds but a good few handfuls about what I wrote, what the responder’s understanding of church is, and even more about being the church. “Being the Church” really does look different to different people, organizations, institutions, and the like. There is no one “cookie-cutter” model of church that is practiced everywhere— except, I hope, to “love God with all your heart, your soul, and mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself.”

With life in the 21st century so different from previous times, how do we embrace “Being the Church”? Living a life that glorifies God is at the center! Yes, we may have to decide between sleeping in, soccer, church, and several other opportunities each week. And yes, it is important to have a faith community— but, more important, where is God in your life in the midst of all this?

Being the Church takes time and energy to live life in a way that cares for all creation including oneself. It’s about using the gifts that God has

blessed you with and sharing them with the world. Are you a good listener? singer? musician? storyteller? organizer? doer? craftsman? Do you love to be with a few people or a hundred people? Do you enjoy meeting the stranger? greeting people? talking with them? sharing your thoughts and ideas? Being the Church is pulling all these different gifts together to have a community that reaches out to bring more people to know Christ.

Being the Church requires being in relationship with God, one another, and the world. It’s about taking the time to connect with one another, care for one another, support in ways that you can, being God’s family with all our flaws, joys, compassions, everything! In this Easter season and springtime, get refreshed to be the church and live the church— get out and care for what God has blessed you with! Look around at the beauty God has surrounded you with— both inside the walls of 950 West State Street and outside!

Blessings and peace,



Joanna



Want to Write a Hymn?

Do you like to work with words?
 Have you ever wanted to rewrite some of the words to hymns?
 Do you want to not only write some new hymn words but hear them sung?

Now is your chance!

There are two hymns in our hymnal that I would like to have us sing but that are too short to sing alone. The first is hymn #432— Song of Hope— an Argentine folk melody. The meter of the tune is 11.11.11.11 (you know what this means because you read about it last month), and the rhythm of all four sentences is the same:



The second hymn— #322, Spirit of the Living God— could use another verse or two. The meter is irregular, so there is some syllabic flexibility.

I would like to sing both these hymns on May 31, so any new verses would need to be done quickly.

Interested? Call or e-mail me and we'll get together about this.

Michael

345-3441, ext. 113

michael@first-presbyterian.org

News from Camp Sawtooth

Investments

All of us are talking about investments and the losses we have incurred in the last year. It has been significant in every household whether it is loss of retirement funds or loss of jobs.

In God's economy what we invest grows, and there are no losses. Matthew 6:19-20 says "Don't store up treasures here on earth... Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal." Jesus says when you give a drink of cold water in His name it is as if you are giving it to Him.

This summer as 300 to 400 campers, staff, deans, and volunteers spend time at Camp Sawtooth serving, caring for, and encouraging each other in their daily lives and in their walk with Christ, it becomes an investment that stores up treasures in heaven— and there are no losses.

At Camp Sawtooth there is a "Welcome Mat" out to all who would like to come and **volunteer**. We will find a job for you, whether assisting the program staff or as a camp host building the morning and evening fires, and we would love to have you come. E-mail, call, or check out the "Volunteers" on the website (www.campsawtooth.org).

Projects

We've added to the list of projects that we'd love to see accomplished during Opening (Memorial Day) Weekend:

Popma and Campers' Cabins: Greeling Hall Bathrooms, Popma Room at Greeling Hall

Turner Rest: Upper and Lower

Hawley Lodge: Kitchen, Cooks' Quarters

Mary Popma Chapel

Every facility listed needs to be thoroughly cleaned, along with repairs of any broken windows or screens. Outside there are dirt and rocks to be moved along with wood chips to line paths to the chapel and to the cabins. Bring your gloves!

Specific Skills or Equipment needed:

Low Ropes course knowledge

Wood chipper

Bucket truck to put cross on Mary Popma Chapel

Chapel Doors installed

Look for an article elsewhere in this issue for details about the weekend!

Camper Scholarships

It is our goal that every youth has the opportunity to come to camp without finances being a hindrance. To apply for scholarships through Camp Sawtooth, please call or e-mail the Camp Sawtooth office or go to our website to download the scholarship form. Or e-mail the Directors to apply at: directorscamp-sawtooth@yahoo.com.

Friendship Dinners

The Friendship Dinner Team served 110 people on Thursday, April 2. Since there are five Thursdays in April, we will also do one on the fourth Thursday, April 23. Thanks to all who help and who attend.

Bill Brudenell

News from Troop 33

In May, the Troop will meet on the 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th. The May campout will be at Succor Creek State Park on the 9th and 10th.

In June, the Troop will meet on the 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th. The June campout will be at Bruneau Sand Dunes State Park with Pack 33 on the 5th, 6th, and 7th.

The Troop meets in Lindsay Hall basement on most Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. For more information call Brian Anderson, 389-4742, or Bill Harenberg, 344-2369, or check out the Troop's web site at www.boisetroop33.org.

Mothers and Daughters and Others

Mark your calendars for a special event in Lindsay Hall on Saturday, May 16, at 1 p.m. The Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian are sponsoring a Mother-Daughter Tea for all of the women of the church. You are not required to bring a mother or daughter; you can bring another family member, a friend, or a neighbor or just yourself. And if you have a hat, whether old or new, we'd like you to wear it.

The style show last year was so greatly enjoyed, we have decided to repeat it for our program this year. The Assistance League of Boise, with models from our own church, is sponsoring it again. Additional items of clothing, as well as accessories from the League's collection at its outlet store in Garden City, will be available for purchase either before or after the tea. There is no charge for the event; however, donations will be accepted, and all of the

money above the expenses for the tea will be given to the Assistance League.

In order for us to plan efficiently, please make reservations by May 14 by calling either Mike Thomas at 938-2694 or Louise Ackley at 344-8836.

Youth Activities This Month and Beyond

Note: the current 5th graders will be moving up and into FLY beginning May 15 for the lock-in and rummage sale!

ALL YOUTH (RUSH 503/ FLY 502): Sundays 10:10- 10:55 a.m.

RUSH (9-12th graders): Wednesday nights 5:30-8:15 p.m.

May 13, 5:30-8:15 p.m. ALL youth Wednesday night program AND begin sorting and pricing for the RUMMAGE SALE

May 15-16 Moving Up Lock-in and rummage sale preparation

MAY 16 - Rummage sale, church parking lot

May 17 - FLY to Wahooz (Boondocks)

May 23-25 - Camp Sawtooth Opening Weekend; ALL invited to come and serve the church, have a blast, split wood, build, and whatever else comes up

May 27 - RUSH Grad party

June 20-30 - RUSH to Costa Rica

July 16 10:30 p.m. - July 17 early a.m.:

HARRY POTTER opening night at the movies - ALL YOUTH and young adults, rising 6th graders and up

July 19-13 - FLY Mystery Mission Trip to ????? (open to rising 6th graders through graduating 8th graders)

August 21-23 - Annual fall (more or less!) youth retreat to Meadowood Lodge in McCall, with time for each group together and separately

Memorial Weekend Work!

The Memorial Day weekend is traditionally the “get-ready-for-opening” weekend at Camp Sawtooth. It’s a time of volunteering skills and pure labor on behalf of the camp and those who attend its sessions; it’s also a time of fellowship and a time to enjoy the lovely setting of the camp. Families are very welcome, and you can either bring your own RV or arrange to stay in one of the cabins. Meals are provided Saturday-Monday. **Please** make advance reservations with the camp directors (directorscampsawtooth.org) so they’ll know how many to provide for!

The *beginning* list of projects for those who come to Camp Sawtooth Friday evening, May 22, through Monday, May 25, includes:

- RV Park: Install five frost-free hydrants
- Greeling Hall: Install storage cabinets
- Popma Chapel: Re-attach benches & cross; install new doors
- Cabins: General cleaning
- Pine Tree & Maple: Repair windows
- Roads: Need to be graded and raked (bring your wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes and leather gloves)
- Move rocks to line paths
- Manager’s Cabin: Remove chimney; install metal on roof

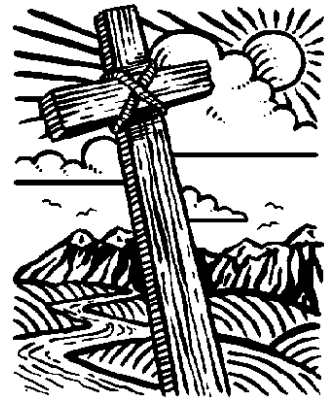
Opening “Work” Weekend involves more than just “work.” To begin the 2009 Camping Season, you are welcome

to join in a Prayer Walk at any time throughout the weekend.

Beginning Saturday morning after breakfast as each one chooses a task, we will pray to start the day, and posted at each facility will be prayer requests and scriptures. Walk and pray as a group, alone, two by two; or pray as you work. We want to cover the Camp from the Camp Fire Station north of the Chapel to the cabins at the south end. It will be like a treasure hunt through prayer. Colossians 2:3 says “In Christ Jesus are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

There will be a time of dedication of the Greeling Hall and the Popma Room remodel, and Prayer Partners will be organized for the 2009 Summer Program Staff and Deans with a sign-up sheet available.

If you would like to receive prayer requests via e-mail, and/or be a prayer partner, please e-mail the Directors.





C.A.T.C.H.

Mother's Day is this month. What better way to honor your mother than by giving a gift to C.A.T.C.H.? The C.A.T.C.H. program is designed to help homeless families help themselves and be in a position to pay their own rent at the end of just six months. Reach out and help someone!

News Briefs

Editor's note: First Press is published on a regular, monthly, schedule and thus is not a good vehicle for information that the Session wishes to get immediately into the hands (and minds) of members and friends of the congregation. However, First Press will carry some of the items from the "Breaking News" flyers that are not so time-specific that their informational value is gone.

Rapid Communication

Session has targeted the "new" FPC Breaking News fliers, available at the church and in particular available with worship bulletins and distributed to the church's e-mail list, and the church website (www.first-presbyterian.org) as the initial efforts to improve communication throughout the congregation.

Operations Commission Reviews Year-to-Date Giving

The Operations Commission has reviewed giving through the first three quarters of the fiscal year (July 1–June 30). As of April 1, giving is behind projection by \$25,000. In order to meet the '08–'09 budget, congregational giving needs to be \$152,100 (including both pledged and non-pledged income) in the fourth quarter.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of both staff and Session, expenses are thus far below projections for the year.

What needs to happen to meet annual budget?

Congregational pledges need to be paid in full by June 30.

Non-pledged giving needs to be increased where possible.

All family/giving units are asked to prayerfully consider increased giving where financially possible. Sixty-eight percent of families/giving units are current with pledges.

Anne Frank Remembered

Anne Frank would have been 80 years old on June 12. First Presbyterian Church is sponsoring several events during the week of June 8 to commemorate this anniversary and to raise awareness of the severity of human rights violations that continue to occur daily in many parts of the world.

Anne Frank and her family fled from Nazi Germany in 1933 and found refuge in the Netherlands. They went into hiding in 1942, after Germany invaded the Netherlands. Betrayed and captured after two years in hiding, the family was taken to a concentration camp, where Anne died of typhoid in June 1945 at the age of 15.

Young Anne kept a meticulous diary during those months of fear and loneliness. Discovered after the war, the diary is a moving document describing the young girl's fear, yet hope for the future, and her unshakable belief in the goodness of humanity. Eleanor Roosevelt described the diary as "one of the wisest and most moving commentaries on war and its impact on human beings that I have ever read."

Boise First the Forum is excited to collaborate with the Idaho Human Rights Education Center in a week-long series of events to commemorate Anne Frank's life.

On Wednesday, June 10, at 7:00 p.m. we will show the movie "Anne Frank Remembered" in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian. Folks are invited to remain after

the movie and participate in a discussion of the movie, led by Mark Davis.

On Saturday, June 13, we will host a "tea and conversation" in Lindsay Hall with Gerda Weissman-Klein. Gerda is a Holocaust survivor originally from Poland. She was liberated from a concentration camp in Yugoslavia by an American soldier, Kurt Klein, whom she married shortly after the war. Together they founded the Gerda and Kurt Klein Foundation to combat prejudice and to educate young people about the evils of intolerance. There is no charge for this event, but space is limited, so send your reservation to joann@first-presbyterian.org

Ms. Weissman-Klein, who is being hosted by the Idaho Human Rights Education Center, will speak at an event at the Boise State University Special Events Center on Friday evening, June 12. Tickets are available through the Idaho Human Rights Education Center.

First Presbyterian will also host a book study on three consecutive Sundays, May 31 and June 7 and 14, to discuss the story of Anne Frank and the lessons we can learn from her life. Interested members will be asked to read Anne's diary. Copies will be made available in May. Our time together will include discussions about what we as individuals can do in our local communities and throughout the world.

Reserve your spot so we can order you a book: e-mail to joannad@first-presbyterian.org.

Session Notes

The Session held a special meeting at the end of March to focus on two issues: updates on issues raised during last December's Town Hall meeting and an analysis of First Presbyterian finances.

Among the major themes of the December meeting were improving communications and clarifying the mission activities of First Presbyterian. One result has been creation of a "Mission Interpretation Team" to focus on various forms of mission in which the church is involved. That may include specific programs and activities, use of First Presbyterian facilities, financial support, volunteers, and other ways of reaching out to the larger community.

The Session also discussed ways to improve communications with the congregation. Current options include pre-service announcements, e-mails, mailings, *First Press*, bulletin boards, and announcements by Session members or Deacons during services. Because *First Press* is not a timely publication, the Session added "hotsheets," a hand-out with the bulletin, to bring the congregation up to date on various issues of concern.

The financial analysis included recognition of the need to communicate to the congregation the critical nature of First Presbyterian finances. Revenues are below projected levels, partly as a result of the current economic situation and partly because of the fact that people may not realize the importance of their giving (and of honoring their pledges). Expenses are also below projected levels, thanks to the efforts of the First Presbyterian staff.

The analysis was a preliminary step in developing the annual Stewardship Cam-

paign, which will be held this spring.

In addition, the Session elected Steve Severn to another term as First Presbyterian Treasurer and elected Lindy High to another term as Clerk of Session.

Lindy High
Clerk of Session

Elders of the Month for May are John Hicks, 429-6927, and Lindy High, 336-2647.

What's Happenin' Here

One thing that happens around here regularly is that people come by seeking assistance. The needs are manifold, but they usually involve money. Some are things that are available from several of the "service provider" agencies in our area. We give information about these agencies and directions about how one can get access to them. Some folks want money, for a variety of needs. When we can, we put people to work for a few hours, giving them both a few bucks to put in their pocket and the dignity of some employment, however brief. Plans are in the works to be better prepared to offer food to those in need. Thursday evening dinners are a huge help, offering a good meal in a gracious atmosphere. We simply cannot satisfy some wants, but we can— and do— offer the respect that each individual needs and deserves.

Mike Sanders



1st Presbyterian The Church Family

May Birthdays

May 2	Verena Wolf	May 21	Sam Anderson
May 5	Evan Smith	May 22	Nita Sherrill
May 8	Jill Reardon		Laura Gilchrist
	Cindy Finch	May 23	David Carlson
May 9	Drake Shubin	May 24	Jeanne Smith
	Katelyn Gould		Kellee Matsko
May 10	Fern Fletcher	May 25	Alexi Severn
May 11	Sarah Brudenell	May 26	Jean Laxson
May 12	Benjamin Thomas		Debra Brown
May 13	Anya Szentes	May 27	Mike Reardon
May 14	Jim Mowbray		Maxwell Hewes
	Dick Armstrong	May 29	James Rhees
	Matthew Payne	May 31	Merel Cantlon
May 16	Emily Brudenell		Cheryl Larabee
May 17	Bjorn Long		Margrith Wolf
May 18	Hailey Armstrong		
May 19	Sharon Lamm		
	Katie Casper		
	Massimo Daltoso		

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Attendance includes all Sunday services and those on special days in the Church calendar (for example, Ash Wednesday and Christmas Eve) and services led by First Church at nursing homes.

Giving reflects donations to the ongoing work of the church, both pledges and undesignated giving. It does not include special offerings, designated donations (such as contributions for the Sunday-morning flowers), or rent of First Church facilities.

March 15, 2009
Third Sunday in Lent
 Attendance - 213
 Giving - \$7,325.00

March 22, 2009
Fourth Sunday in Lent
 Attendance - 190
 Giving - \$3,091.00

March 29, 2009
Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Attendance - 215
 Giving - \$7,631.55

April 5, 2009
Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday
 Attendance - 291
 Giving - \$13,488.41

WORSHIP NOTES

The scriptures listed below are those from the Revised Common Lectionary, used by mainline Protestant denominations across the world. They are often but not always the scriptures read during Sunday worship at First Church. If you are interested in art that is relevant to the particular days in the liturgical calendar, check the Vanderbilt Divinity Library's lectionary website (<http://divinity.library.library.vanderbilt.edu/lectionary>) for examples. This is the website, produced by the library of Vanderbilt Divinity School at Vanderbilt University, from which we draw the lists of lessons.

During Eastertide a reading from Acts is often substituted for the lesson from the Hebrew Bible.

May 3, 2009

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
I John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

May 10, 2009

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
I John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

May 17, 2009

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
I John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 21, 2009

Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

May 24, 2009

Seventh Sunday of Easter

(if Ascension not observed here)
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
I John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 31, 2009

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

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