

“Dare to Share: visions and Dreams” 5/31/2009

Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27 Kenmore UMC

The Spirit of Pentecost gives us the strength and power to dare to dream dreams and envision visions of life, and our world, as God sees it can be.

There is something amazing about fire.



It is shown by Tom Hanks in the movie *Cast Away* when he rejoices the fire he has created that will help save him.

It is frightening and enlivening at the same time. It is the very essence of energy and power and yet its very nature is inherently uncontrollable. In the dark coolness of a summer's night it brings light and warmth. At a campfire it can take a ball of puffed sugar and make it into a ball of creamy hot deliciousness. (That would be cooking a marshmallow, just in case you are not seeing what I see).

No wonder when Luke describes the gift of the Holy Spirit coming on the disciples he describes it as "*Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.*" Pentecost is about energy and light and power. It is about daring to be enlivened by the uncontrollable to do the unimaginable.

Pentecost is about sharing our God given visions and dreams of what can be and joining together in making them real. It is about tapping into the limitless source of power and life that is at the heart of the universe that is at the heart of Life.

God our Creator who ordered light and life out of chaos, Jesus our redeemer who blew the breath of the Spirit upon us that we might do even greater things, the Holy Spirit itself that dances like fire within us giving light in the darkness and warmth in the cold.

These twelve young people have that energy always ready to burst forth, I remember the retreats, they would focus for a time, like we were harnessing all that energy, and then, when it was dark and time for some fun, the energy would burst out of them to go play sardines. Two would go to hide in the darkness of the building somewhere and after a few minutes all the rest would go out in small groups to find them. It was like the start of a horse race as they would burst from the confinement of the lighted room into the darkness of the church after their quest.

That's really what they are joining this morning, a group of folks gathered together who have had the fire of the Spirit cast out the darkness in our lives, so that we can go forth from the light and warmth into the dark cold to bring the sweetness of Life to a world in need.

These twelve youth come to confirm their faith, to say yes to God, to say yes to Jesus, to say yes to the Holy Spirit as the defining force in their life.

They have come with all their energy and life to invite this congregation to be ignited by that same Yes to life and love, to say Yes to one who has embraced in loved and breathed into us the enlivening and daring Spirit that sets us free to dare, to share, to dream dreams and see visions that we work together to pursue.

Let us pray for God's Spirit to come upon them again and again. Let us join them in claiming and reclaiming the Spirit, or should I say let us join them in entering the whirlwind of life that is Life in the Spirit.

Life in the Spirit, known and loved, sharing that love, never satisfied until all have been fed, and the broken made whole, and war become peace and God's Kingdom shines in all the world.

Imagine, Dare to share visions and dreams of Holy Aliveness, God's life that really is Life. Amen.

