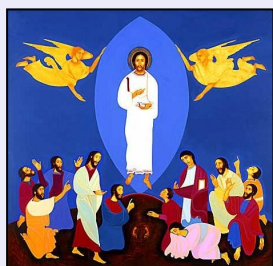




June – the Month of Festivals

This month we celebrate:

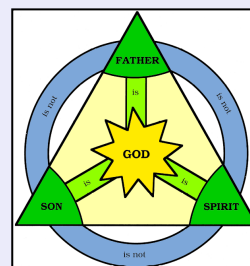
Ascension Day (June 2nd)



Pentecost (June 12th)



Trinity Sunday (June 19th)



I always think that those who devised the Christian calendar ran out of ideas after Trinity Sunday. All we had were numerous “Sundays after Trinity” until Advent at the end of November or beginning of December. A revision of the calendar a few years ago ignored Trinity and gave us “Sundays after Pentecost” then cut down a few and had “Sundays before Advent.” Does it matter?

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians about the freedom they had in Christ. These Christians were in danger of falling back into legalism and Paul said to them:

¹⁰You are trying to earn favor with God by observing certain days or months or seasons or years. ¹¹I fear for you. Perhaps all my hard work with you was for nothing. *Galatians 4:10-11*

Paul was talking about Jewish festivals, but should we not heed the warning that we can become so scrupulous in observing special days that we miss the exuberance and excitement of being Christians *every day*? However, towards the end of his Third Missionary Journey, as Paul makes plans to return to Jerusalem, Luke, the writer of *Acts* tells us:

¹⁶For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; he was eager to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. *Acts 20:16*

Although Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival, it was the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the waiting followers of Jesus, empowering them for mission. This was the birthday of the Church. Paul may have felt he still wanted to observe this important Jewish festival or perhaps he now thought of it in Christian terms as the birthday of the Church.

Earlier, when King Herod Agrippa put Peter in prison, we are told he intended to keep Peter there until after Passover. For some reason the King James Version of the Bible translates the Greek word for Passover as “Easter.” But that is the only mention of Easter in the Bible and it should have been translated “Passover.” There is some evidence that by the middle of the second century AD the celebration of Easter was well established.

So, back to our June festivals. Should we observe them? I think we should heed the warning Paul gives about not be obsessed by them or let them give us a false sense of security. I remember a man who always said he was a regular church attendee. He came to the Christmas Carol Service every year. Well, he was regular, but it was hardly Christian commitment. On the other hand, if we let the festivals serve us they can help us to see the big picture and hear the whole story. So at Christmas we celebrate Christ’s Incarnation. At Easter we celebrate his Resurrection. Let’s think about our June festivals.

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JUNE SERMONS

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

June 5 (Ascension)	Wait for Power	Acts 1:8
June 12 (Pentecost)	Water and Spirit	Acts 1:5
June 19 (Trinity)	Wash me Clean	Psalm 51:5-12
June 26	Fill me with Your Fullness	Ephesians 3:14-19

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Ascension Day is when we recall Jesus' ascension into heaven bringing his resurrection appearances to an end and his earthly ministry to a close. The observance of the Ascension suffers from Ascension Day always being on a Thursday. It is appropriate that we celebrate Ascension themes on the Sunday following. As well as marking the completion of Jesus' earthly ministry it assures us of his return to glory, his enthronement and reign in heaven and includes the promise of his coming again.

This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. *Acts 1:11*

These events should not be absent from our preaching or worship.

Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers. Jesus had told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come upon them and fill them. Before the crucifixion Jesus had promised his disciples that they would receive the power they needed to live the kind of lives Jesus required and be able to take the Good News to "the ends of the earth." On that day in Jerusalem, Jesus' followers, by now numbering 120, were all together in one place. They suddenly became aware of a rushing, mighty wind filling the room and tongues of fire resting on each one of them. They poured out into the streets of Jerusalem and found they were able to communicate the Gospel in all the languages of the many pilgrims who had come for the festival. The result of Peter's preaching was 3000 converts baptized that day. That's awesome!

Celebrating Pentecost gives us an opportunity to emphasize the presence, work and gifting of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has never been withdrawn. We are still a Spirit-filled church.

Trinity Sunday is different from the other festivals as it celebrates not an event but the belief of the church. While it is true that the word *Trinity* is not in the Bible an understanding of One God in Three Persons is the only way to do justice to God's revelation of himself in the Bible.

Have you seen our new logo?



CCC (Christ Community Church) is purposely placed in a triangle to represent the Trinity. Prominent is the Cross. What this is saying is that we are a Trinitarian church where Christ's death on the cross – the extent of God's love that accomplishes salvation – is our assurance and our proclamation.



Christ Community Church

Orlando, Florida



COUNCIL NEWS & NOTES

The Church Constitution and Ministry Bylaws were officially adopted by the congregation on **May 8, 2011**. All current church members should have a copy of this document, and any new members will receive a copy as well.

We are happy to have John and Beryl back with us from England. In John's absence, we were fortunate and thankful to hear sermons from: Pastor Don Burns, Mr. Ralph Henderson, and Mr. Jorge Pinto.

The Council continues to encourage all to prayerfully consider serving on the Church Council. Nadine Pasquot and Barbara Sheridan complete their three-year term this year. If you are interested, or know someone who would like to serve on the Council, please let one of the current Council Members know. Nominations will be accepted through June 30th. The Council will review all nominations at the July Council Meeting and make recommendations to the congregation for confirmation in August.

You may have noticed some changes to the back classroom. We have had the sink and counter removed and are in the process of getting quotes to change the flooring. We hope that these changes will provide a little more space and update the look. For a close-up view, join Charlie Steele's class at 10am on Sunday mornings!

The choir will rehearse on Wednesday, **June 1** at 7pm. Wednesday potluck dinner and Bible study will resume on Wednesday, **June 8**. The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, **June 20** at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Diane Reaves
Church Council Chairperson



June 2011 Newsletter

ALL NEW AND UPDATED WEBSITE www.orlandoccc.org

Christ Community Church

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Sundays

10:00 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

JUST STAY

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside. "Your son is here," she said to the old man. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened. Heavily sedated because of the pain of his heart attack, he dimly saw the young uniformed Marine standing outside the oxygen tent. He reached out his hand. The Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement. The nurse brought a chair so that the Marine could sit beside the bed.

All through the night the young Marine sat there in the poorly lighted ward, holding the old man's hand and offering him words of love and strength. Occasionally, the nurse suggested that the Marine move away and rest awhile. He refused. Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Marine was oblivious of her and of the night noises of the hospital - the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients. Now and then she heard him say a few gentle words. The dying man said nothing, only held tightly to his son all through the night. Along towards dawn, the old man died.

The Marine released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. While she did what she had to do, he waited. Finally, she returned. She started to offer words of sympathy, but the Marine interrupted her. "Who was that man?" he asked. The nurse was startled, "He was your father," she answered. "No, he wasn't," the Marine replied. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son, and his son just wasn't here. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed. I came here tonight to find a Mr. William Grey. His Son was Killed in Iraq, and I was sent to inform him. What was this gentleman's name?" The Nurse with tears in her eyes answered, "Mr. William Grey....."

The next time someone needs you ... just be there. Stay.

WE ARE NOT HUMAN BEINGS GOING THROUGH A TEMPORARY SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE.
WE ARE SPIRITUAL BEINGS GOING THROUGH A TEMPORARY HUMAN EXPERIENCE.

