

VOLUME 84, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2014

Wind. Fire. Speech.

Three powerful images dominate the image of the birth of the church: mighty wind, fire and speech (Acts 2: 1-4). It's fascinating to see how these three all intertwine:

- Wind, like God's Spirit, moves where it will, inscrutable, invisible, yet overwhelmingly powerful.
- Fire, an image of the mysterious presence of God, whose burning brings transformation burning up trash, yet changing food, metal and rocks from ordinary to extraordinary.
- Prophetic Speech, which encompasses the first two images mysterious movement, burning like fire transforming people and pushing them to move.

Parrish and I were coming back from a visit with our son Edison at Hastings College last month when, all of a sudden, we realized we were driving into a tornado. We immediately pulled off at a rest stop. I asked a man there where the tornado was. He said, "There is one three miles ahead moving away from us, and there are three or four more cells forming south and coming toward us." It was a dramatic few hours. It was unbelievable to experience the unseen power of wind, mysteriously tearing down walls.

In the ancient middle east, there were plenty of walls. But these were walls of different ethnic, religious and social groups. Each one built to keep out people who were different. On Pentecost, this mighty wind, fire and speech come and tear down all those walls. The people on the inside of the church could all of a sudden understand the people outside the church. And the people outside of the church all of a sudden felt understood. There was a sense of God's power that changed those present and brought them together.

We live in a world with a lot of walls. A lot of people do not feel cared for, noticed or understood. We live in a world full of attack ads where people try to drive a wedge between others who see things differently. We live in a world where social walls keep people from understanding or caring about each other. It makes it easy to denigrate and despise others.

The world needs the Church to come together in the power of the Holy Spirit – wind, fire, speech – tearing down the walls. Helping us all to find a new unity, a new world.

We celebrate the first time God mysteriously showed up in this way. It is on Pentecost. Will God show up again and change the world? That my friends, is a mystery. We will most likely experience it as it happened in the early church – when everyone came together in worship.

Waiting impatiently for the Spirit, Andrew McDonald, Pastor





One Day, Two Special Events!

Save the date for this festive event! On Sunday, June 22, we'll be celebrating our Scottish heritage as well as the great outdoors. Worship at 10:30 a.m. will be at the Band Shell at Antelope Park. Bring blankets, lawn chairs, sunglasses, sunscreen and plenty of water! Special music will be played by Oasis, as well as Vacation Bible School participants.

After worship, join us for a delicious potluck picnic lunch at the Auld Recreation Center! A free will offering will be collected. Bring a dessert (last name beginning with A-J) or side dish (last name beginning with K-Z) with a serving spoon to

serve 10-12 people. Consider bringing an allergen-free item (no nuts, dairy, gluten, etc.) for those with food allergies. If you do, please label it as such so members of the congregation with food allergies can enjoy it safely. There will be no Sunday School classes this week, June 22. Worship at 8:00 a.m. will be in the Chapel per our usual schedule. See you at the park!

Alternative Worship Update

For surely God has plans for us, plans for a future with hope! (Jeremiah 29:11)

The Alternative Worship service planning committee has met almost weekly since January to funnel our energy, excitement and ideas into one cohesive vision for a new service to be added this Fall. The group has conducted multiple surveys and focus groups, both within the congregation and outside of it, and met with church growth consultant Charles Arn, and has plans to present its recommendation to Session in the coming weeks.

Another focus group was held on May 20 to discuss music options, and the feedback we received is helping us shape the look, sound and feel of the service. Your continued prayers and support are most welcome as we continue to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit and deepen Westminster's commitment to be spiritually alive and broadly inclusive in our worship.

EMERGENCY Human Needs Fund

Many of you may not know, but Westminster has an Emergency Human Needs Fund that is used at the discretion of our Senior Pastor. We have had numerous occasions where MEMBERS of our congregation have needed emergency help to cover some of the basic costs of life such as utility bills, food and medical bills.

This fund has been depleted so we are asking for ANY monetary donations. If this moves you to act, you may send a check to Westminster Presbyterian Church in care of Cheryl Rennick. Mark your check "Emergency Human Needs Fund."

God calls each of us to care for one another. What a great way to share our love with fellow Westminster members. Thanks for your consideration.

Scott Nelson, stewardship committee

Becoming God's Next Church

This year's Synod School, "Becoming God's Next Church," will be July 27 through August 1 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Attendees chose from more than 60 courses to participate in and are given the opportunity to grow in faith through fellowship and private reflection.

This year's convocation speaker, Anna Case Winters, is Profes-

sor of Theology at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. She will share a lively interchange between theology and science—what we are learning about our evolving universe and the place of the human being within it. How may we understand ourselves today as beings created "in the image of God" and "from the dust of the earth?"

For more information visit www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html or call (800) 328-1880.

Reverend Dr. Andrew L. McDonald Senior Pastor

Reverend Jennifer Strickland Associate Pastor

Reverend Ellen Davis
Parish Associate

Cheryl Rennick
Business Administrator

Boyd Bacon
Director of Music and Fine Arts

Dr. Masako Nakamura Bacon
Associate Director of Music and Fine Arts

Suzanne Schneider Preschool Director

Betsy Guyer Director of Children's Ministries

Kalee Olson
Communications Coordinator

Marge Tomlinson

Administrative Secretary

Rachel Pickard

Youth Communications Coordinator

Devon Nelson

Middle School Youth Director

The Messenger is a monthly publication of Westminster Presbyterian Church 2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE 68502 Phone: 402-475-6702 Fax: 402-475-3148 westminsterlincoln.org

THE MESSENGER (USPS 680-440) PUBLISHED M O N T H L Y B Y WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2110 SHERIDAN BLVD., LINCOLN, NE 68502. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT LINCOLN NEBRASKA. \$2 SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2110 SHERIDAN BLVD., LINCOLN, NE 68502.

Men's Tuesday Morning Breakfast

Join Westminster for a great lineup of programs. A continental breakfast (only \$2 and FREE for first-timers) is available soon after 6:30 a.m. with an hour-long program beginning at 7:00 a.m.

June 3

Bible Study Rev. Andrew McDonald

June 10

It's Your Foundation
Allen Moore, Chairman, WPC
Foundation

June 17

The Nursing Program and a Whole Lot More

Dr. Marilyn Moore, President, Bryan College of Health Sciences

June 24

Bible Study Rev. Jen Strickland

Westminster Bible Class

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

June 1

Obey the Lord Haggai 1:1-11 Rev. Ellen Davis

June 8

Trust God's Promises Haggai 1:12; 2:1-9 Rev. Ellen Davis

June 15

Live Pure Lives/Hope for a New Day Haggai 2:10-19/Haggai 2:20-23; Zechariah 4:5-14 Rev. Ellen Davis

June 22

No class this week. Join us for Presbyterians in the Park!

Adult Education

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. // Fellowship Hall A

June 1: Biblical Ethics

Presented by Rev. Andrew McDonald Rev. McDonald will put his outstanding teaching style to work on his favorite topic—ethics.

June 8: On Fatherhood



This month, we'll celebrate dads in honor of Father's Day! Join a panel of Westminster dads who will share their experiences and feelings about the importance of being a father.

June 15: J. Sterling Morton's Legacy Presented by Maggie Stuckey

Come and learn about J. Sterling Morton and Arbor Day from our own Maggie Stuckey, director of development at the Nebraska Arbor Day Foundation.

June 22: No class. Join us for Presbyterians in the Park!

June 29: Mission Possible

Presented by Tom Pappas, Maggie Stuckey and Rev. Jen Strickland

WPC members serve God and the world in a variety of ways. At a mid-point in Summer, come hear reports about some opportunities you may wish to take part in.

Prayers for Upcoming General Assembly

Please keep Rev. Jen Strickland and Cheryl Rennick in prayer this month, June 14-21, as they travel to Detroit for the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Cheryl will be working with the Social Justice Issues Committee, and Pastor Jen with the Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation and Presbyterian Foundation Committee.

What is General Assembly?

The Presbyterian Church is governed by a body like Congress, with elected commissioners that gather every two years to guide the church. This biennial meeting brings together commissioners and advisory delegates from all 172 presbyteries, as well as other delegates and observers from around the world. The assembly opens and closes with worship, and includes celebrations, deliberations and inspirations throughout.

The General Assembly has specific responsibilities. It seeks to protect our church from errors in faith and practice, and is responsible for assuring the expression of our theology remains true to the biblical standards in our historic confessions. The General Assembly presents a witness for truth and justice in our community and in the world. It sets priorities for the church and establishes relationships with other churches or ecumenical bodies.



"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick

and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." ~ Mark 25:35-36

Have you ever felt a call to minister to those imprisoned? Ever hear just the slightest voice? Alongside Pastor Jen, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to be a part of Westminster's first book club with inmates at the Lancaster County Adult Detention Facility. Participation in this book club is a special privilege for inmates selected for the program. Following a required training session, we met with a small group of female inmates once a week for four weeks to discuss portions of the selected reading. We found these women to be prepared, reflective, enthusiastic, talkative, appreciative and supportive of one another, and their gratitude was expressed to us many times.

Books are powerful tools and the shared experience provided a remarkable medium for fellowship. For some women, we were the only visitors they might receive all week. One woman mentioned she was thankful that we still saw them as members of the community, even while imprisoned. Several asked us to pray for their families, and the judges, lawyers and others involved in their cases. When are you coming back for another book club? was a common question asked, and We know there are other inmates that would like the opportunity as well.

Please contact Pastor Jen if you might be interested in joining this ministry. More volunteers would allow us to offer the book club more frequently and expand into the men's unit. Is the Lord calling you?

~ Maggie Yancey and Deb Schorr

Planning Continues for Fall Trip to Lohmen

Still considering a Fall trip to Lohmen? There's room for you, but it's time to decide! Members of the Lohmen Mission group are planning to visit our sister church September 12-19 in celebration of its 225th anniversary. (For context, George Washington was president when the church was built!) The group plans to explore mission, worship, sightsee, eat amazing food and deepen relationships with our Lohmen friends. For more information, contact Tom Pappas.

Hostamania Report

Speaking of our Lohmen mission, special thanks to those who conducted, shopped and purchased plants at Hostamania! The rain suggested planning for a follow-up sale, but not many plants remained and record proceeds were collected. In total, \$1,316 was deposited in the Lohmen Mission group fund to facilitate its ministry. Thank you for your support!

Tour de Friends Sunday, June 1

Thursday, June 19

Remember our new cycling group meets the first Sunday of every month at 3:30 p.m. and the third Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Meeting places and routes TBD. Check our Facebook page for more details!

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, June 3

Aces Haus of Cuisine (200 N 70th St.) Lunch Bunch meets the first Tuesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. for fellowship and conversation.

Upcoming lunches:

Momo Pizzeria (July 1)

Green Team

Sunday, June 8

If you're green at heart, join us at 2nd Sunday lunch in Fellowship Hall at 11:45 a.m. to share your ideas about enhancing Westminster as a steward of God's resources.

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, June 18

Susie Hughes will lead discussion on "The Language of Flowers" by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. The group meets at 1:00 p.m. at Westminster.



connect • grow • serve

VBS ABCs

Vacation Bible School is only weeks away, but there's still time to register! Here are some reasons to signup for this spirit-filled week.

Adventure: Activities and lessons are designed to turn the learning process into an adventure for kids.

Brainwork: Bible School is a great opportunity to keep kids' brains and bodies active during time-off from school!

Crafts: Kids will create through crafts, music and science.

Discovery: Interaction with teachers and peers allows kids to discover God and the wonders God creates.

Expression: Kids are given an outlet to express themselves to their peers and the community.

Fun: Simply said, Bible School is fun!

Come to Vacation Bible School and complete the ABCs for yourself! Fill out the form on the opposite page or visit westminsterlincoln.org and click the Summer Camps button.

Bible Story Summer Reading



June 1-August 16 All ages!

Looking for a way to keep your faith active and engaged this Summer? Take the Bible Story Summer Reading Challenge! **PLEDGE** as a family, couple or individual to read a few Bible stories each week. This Summer, we'll focus on the Old Testament.

BIBLE: Story Bibles are recommended for families with small children. If you need help choosing a Bible, please ask Betsy Guyer for a recommendation.

READ: Follow the suggested list of Old Testament stories to read each week. Watch for updates, ideas and comments on the Westminster Facebook page!

DISCUSS: Talk about the story with your family. What is the story about? What do you like? How does the story go with others you have read? What can we learn?

TRACK: Families can track their progress on the Old Testament "map" with stickers or markers

CELEBRATE: At the end of the Summer, be sure to celebrate your accomplishment at Genesis Sunday, August 17!

Handouts to sign-up for the Bible Story Summer Reading Challenge will be available in the Garden Room or Faith Village.

Summer Sunday School

Beginning Sunday, June 1, there will be Summer Sunday School for children ages 3 years to Pre-K in Kindergarten of Eden (Room 210) and for children grades K to 5th in Faith Village. *Note: There will be no Sunday School on June 22. Join us for Presbyterians in the Park!*

Kindergarten of Eden: Children will explore "The Wonderful World of Science with Dr. Schiffenhousen!" in *Jelly Telly*, a new children's ministry series created by Veggie Tales creator Phil Vischer.

Faith Village: Children will begin a journey through the Bible with the new video series "Buck Denver asks... What's in the Bible?" also created by Paul Vischer.

FUN SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS!

Register online and save \$10 when you sign up for both CAC and VBS!



Vacation bible school

Use your heart, mind and imagination to participate in Workshop of Wonders! This camp takes children to a place of discovery and imagination through interactive fun, great music, super science, cool crafts and more!

Contact: Betsy Guyer (402) 475-6702

JUNE 16-20 // 9 am-Noon // pre-K — Grade 5 (in fall)



CREATIVE ARTS CAMP

Discover the world through adventure and creativity in "Mission Possible!" Children dive deep into their creative abilities with the instruction of area artistic experts, exploring multi-cultural art, music, skits, movement and more!

Contact: Masako Bacon (402) 475-6702

JULY 14-18 // 9 am-Noon // K — Grade 5 (in fall)

Registration costs are nonrefundable. Extended care is available before and after camp (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) for an additional \$5/hour and must be reserved in advance. Children will need to bring a lunch.

Please cut the portion below and return with a check to: Westminster Presbyterian Church 2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE 68502 Or REGISTER ONLINE at www.westminsterlincoln.org

Or Ri	EGISTER ONLINE at www.westminsterlind	coln.org		
Yes! Sign me up for the following:				
CAC \$40/child; \$90 max/family (\$45 / \$100 after June 13)	VBS \$30/child; \$90 max/family		BOTH \$70/child; \$170/family (through June 13)	
Child's Name:	Grade (in fall):	Age:		
Parent's Name:	Email:			
Phone # ()				
Address (with ZIP code):				
Special Needs/Allergies:		<u> </u>		
Emergency Contact Name/Relationship:			OFFICE USE ONLY Paid	
Preferred Phone # ()			Check#	
Permission to photograph for use	e in WPC publications and online: YES/ NC	0_	Date	
VBS T-shire Siz	e: YS YM YL YXL		Initials	



Congratulations to our 2014 High School graduates! Pictured above, left to right, Bailey Jex, Brittney Nelson, Sophia Baillie, Celeste Chapp and Tyler Minter.

Upcoming Summer Events:

www.westminsterlincoln.org/youth

June 4 (3:00 to 5:00 p.m.) Kids Against Hunger

June 8 (9:45 a.m. to Noon)

Green Team dish-washing

July (TBD)

Sleepy Head Beds! Mission Project in Kansas City

August (TBD)

Saltdogs Game

August 15-17

Confirmation Retreat at Camp Calvin Crest (all youth Grades 8-12 invited, required for confirmands)

Recap on Princeton Youth Ministry Forum

Christy Dempsey, confirmation leader
Princeton Theological Seminary Forum on Youth Ministry

I believe... that you should never trust our urban-minded associate pastor when she says taking the train in New Jersey is "easy."

I believe... that two hours of sleep in a Chicago hotel is enough to sustain you through eight hours of lecture when God is involved.

I recently attended the Princeton Theological Seminary's Forum on Youth Ministry with funding provided by the Westminster Presbyterian Church Foundation and a Homestead Presbytery Grant. In this utopia of Christian friendship, I reflected on many of my Christian beliefs (and gained the important new insights above) and considered how to ignite the practice of testimony in youth. This is essential to our youth confirmation program that culminates with the writing of a faith statement. The statement provides a foundation of our confirmands' personal faith and the backbone for their identity.

Let me share with you what I learned. First, I learned from Dr. Amy Peeler and

Rev. Christian Andrews that our faith is not static and neither are the images we identify in faith. As we grow in faith, so does our understanding of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Not only are there a variety of images of these cornerstones of Christian faith in the Bible itself, but also in how we individually experience each one. Do you see God as the father? The creator? The compassionate? The righteous? It is this variety of individual experiences of the vastness of God that comprise the body of Christ. Rev. Andrews suggested that we see it as melody that does not exist by single notes but in the many notes working together.

Second, I learned from Professor Maria Dixon Hall and Rev. Lillian Daniels that growing in faith requires sharing in faith, and sharing in faith requires relationships. Sharing your faith is opening your soul and is very hard to do unless you trust the people with whom you are sharing. Relationships require effort from the first kind "welcome" to "sharing your stuff." This requires us to move outside of our comfort zone from the placid "how are you" to showing genuine emotion-filled concern for others. Relationships also require time. We don't learn to walk in a day nor should we expect to create Christian community in a day. It requires work and commitment to build these relationships.

Finally, I learned that Christian testimony is not just telling someone about your faith but living that faith in action. You can witness with your voice, and you can witness with your actions. As Rev. Andrews points out that secular-minded individuals often claim that, "Nothing good can come out of Christianity." He responds in equating the comment to John 1:44-46. In this verse, Philip went to Nathanial to tell him about Jesus. Nathanial responded, "Can

anything good come from Nazareth?" In which Philip said, "Come and see." The Bible is filled with people going to see to the works of Christ. Let them "come and see" the work of Christ in our congregation. They will see the good.

Thank you so much for this opportunity. In the ensuing months, I plan to use this knowledge as a foundation for a Presbytery-wide workshop for youth leaders. From here, we can create a youth program where we, youth and adults together, will learn to share and show our faith.

I believe... that together we can help our young people grow in faith.

Swanson Scholarship

The Swanson Scholarship was established in 1996 in memory of Bill and Mary Swanson and is presented to active members of Westminster who are also full-time students. This year's scholarship winners were Sophia Baillie and Celeste Chapp.

College Graduates

Congratulations to our college graduates for completing yet another step in their education!

Melissa Schorr—University of Missouri, Bachelors of Science in Business, majoring in Finance

Julia Otte—University of Nebraska Lincoln, Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Psychology with minors in Humanities in Medicine and Gerontology

Special thanks to everyone who contributed to our Confirmation and Graduation celebrations! They were both very memorable events!



Congratulations to our 2014 Confirmands. Pictured at Confirmation Sunday, left to right, Rev. Andrew McDonald, Clara Walstad, Thea Kerns, Tyler Hoham, Griffin Schainost, Rev. Jennifer Strickland and confirmation leader Christy Dempsey.

Volunteer for Cook-and-Carry

"Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of these... ye have done unto me."

Do you enjoy making a home-cooked meal? Cook-and-Carry is looking for volunteers! This group prepares and delivers meals for those who are temporarily unable to cook for themselves and their families because of health issues. The commitment is minimal, but its importance is great! You will likely be called on only two or three times a year. If you're interested in being part of this ministry, please contact either Dorrie Gage (dorriegage@hotmail.com) or Diana Wild (diana.wild@hotmail.com).

More from the Stewardship Committee

We want your VOIDED check!

Interested in saving some time and streamlining your pledges to the church? Drop a voided check by the office for Cheryl Rennick and benefit from automatic withdrawal. The benefits of this process go all ways, making it easier for church staff, ensuring regular cash flow between accounts and saving you the time of writing and mailing checks. For more information, contact Cheryl at the church office.

Per Capita Contributions Continue

The church has continued to receive contributions to the per capita fund; every dollar allowing us to stretch our regular budget. If you'd still like to contribute to the per capita drive, there's still time and we'll gladly receive your check. Just \$36 per member goes a long way! Mail it to the church office, leave it at the front desk for Cheryl, or put it in the offering marked "per capita." Thank you for being such a generous congregation!



New Members were welcomed into our congregation on May 11. Joining us are Kelly Erwin, Todd Gumm & Jessica Sandmeier, Shelly Haecker and Traci Vrbka.

All In The Family:

Best wishes to Ramsey Miller and Stephen Ramirez, who were married on April 26; and Jennifer Strickland and Jacob Buchholz, who were married May 27.

Comfort for the family and friends of Robert Dawson, who died on April 26; Ken Daniels, who died on May 5; and Caroline Taylor, who died on May 20.

Foundation Birthday Club

The following members celebrated birthdays during May and renewed or became members of the Foundation Birthday Club:

Rick Batten

Carol Campbell

Mike Campbell

Sidna & Bruce Hazen

Nancy Mize

Jim Nissen

Willie Shafer

Pat Sinkey

Tom Smith

Dale Tinstman

Presbyterian Women Circles

All PW Circles with the exception of Circle 4 will break from meeting until August. Circle 4 will meet for a potluck on Monday, June 2, at 6:30 p.m. June Blatt will host (3727 Chapin Circle).

CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATION FORM

Westminster Presbyterian Church 2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln NE 68502

God has given to each of us certain talents and gifts that are to be utilized for the glory of Jesus Christ. Please consider the gifts and talents of our church community and recommend those who you feel are qualified for these offices. You may also recommend yourself. All active members are eligible.

Please talk to one of these committee members if you have questions: Nancy Delgado, Jane Hines, Gail McNair (moderator), Marcie Ryan, Jennifer Strand, Dallas Waggoner, Dan Wherry or Dr. Andrew McDonald (ex officio).

Nominee: _							
Office: (circ	Office: (circle any that apply)						
Foundation	Session	Deacon	Usher	Nominating Committee			
Name of per	son submit	tting nomin	nation: _				
Phone numb	er where t	he Nomina	ting Com	nmittee can reach you if they have questions:			
What qualit	ies make th	nis nominee	e eligible i	for the office?			
	s, openness,			ecific gifts they have. All nominees should have qualifications which include: co- at, willingness to learn, regular attendance at worship and ability to follow through			

Those nominees should have unique characteristics:

Foundation: (6 year term) Record of financial support of Westminster and demonstrated marketing or financial expertise.

Session: (3 year term) Willingness to chair a Session committee/ministry during their term; ability to recruit members for a committee; demonstrated leadership abilities (whether at Westminster, in business or other civic involvement) and ability to "agree to disagree" and move on after airing a minority view.

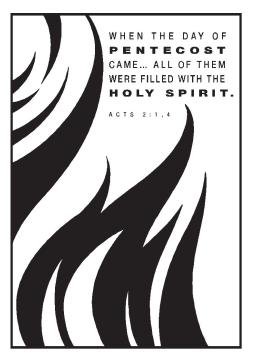
Deacon: (3 year term) Deacons are ordained to serve those who are in need in a very direct and personal way. Also need a desire to share the sense of fellowship and camaraderie among the Deacons.

Usher: (3 year term) Ushers offer a genuine sense of welcome and help to create a place and attitude of meaningful worship.

Nominating Committee: (1 year term) The mission of the Nominating Committee is to search for the future leaders of Westminster. The Nominating Committee is a committee of the congregation.



402.475.6702 westminsterlincoln.org



Pentecost Sunday is June 8!

Wear red on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, and celebrate the birthday of the church! Red symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit who descended upon the apostles on this day (50 days after Easter).

2nd Sunday Lunch

We'll also enjoy 2nd Sunday lunch on June 8 following 10:30 a.m. worship. Join us for fellowship over Raising Cane's chicken strips, coleslaw and Texas toast! Plus lemonade and sweet tea. See you there!