



CHRISTIAN FORMATION PENTECOST RESOURCES

The Season of Pentecost

Happy Birthday Church!

On Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and the birth of the church. How can you celebrate this day in your congregation?

Flaming Pentecost hats remind us of the tongues of flame that appeared on the disciples' heads. Red cone-shaped birthday hats form the base for the Pentecost hat. Using multi-colored curling ribbon, push the ribbons through the slit in the top of the hat. Tape the ends inside the hat. Using scissors curl the ribbon.

Kites can be made from clear plastic and decorated with permanent markers and then flown at a parish celebration.

A gifts celebration fair is a good way to showcase gifts in the parish and provide an encouragement for others to share their gifts or to discern their gifts.

Summer Programming Possibilities

Many folks spend the summertime looking for a new church home. What will they find (or not) if they visit your church this summer?

Use the summer time to try something new, to encourage new teachers, to use space in different creative ways. There are many resources in the diocesan Resource Library that will help you plan something fun, exciting, easy to do, and very adaptable to fluctuating attendance and teacher vacations.

Weeknight get-togethers

You might like to try an informal worship or Bible study time on a weeknight for all ages. Different styles of music and liturgies could be used, or a Bible study for all ages together would be a good thing to do. End the evening with ice cream sundaes or other dessert and social time.

Family Devotionals

Candlepress publishes a number of small booklets that can be given out to families to use during vacation, car trip times. To order, please contact Helen Barron at www.candlepress.org.

Book Party

A book party is an easy fun activity for a summer evening program. Choose enough books so that 4-6 people can gather at a table and read the book selection. Provide a related activity for each book. Group people at the tables in a variety of ages, not from the same family.

Some book selections might include Wilford Gordon McDonald Partridge, The Relatives Came, Old Turtle, Agatha's Featherbed, Prince Mammoth Pumpkin, Sylvester and the Magic Pebble, The Selfish Giant. These books are readily obtainable from your local library. Undoubtedly you have your own favorites. The books and activities can be packaged in a fancy box and placed on the table to be opened when all are gathered. Simple refreshments served at the end make for an enjoyable time.

Programs for the summer

Pick a theme like "Jesus was a carpenter." or "Jesus fed people" or "Jesus healed people." and invite folks from your congregation who are carpenters, cooks, doctors, nurses, etc. to work with the children. For example in the Jesus fed people, you could bring the children into the kitchen, make a simple snack or meal and close the time with a Bible study on one of the feeding stories of Jesus. If you have a carpenter person perhaps the children could make bird houses, banner stands, etc. using tools. What boy wouldn't like that?

The Bible story could be presented or read from the Bible or a Bible storybook, snacks could be served and a closing prayer perhaps written by the children themselves would end the time together.

The list of topics is huge - musicians and a study of the Psalms, boaters and a study of fishing and Jesus in the boat stories, etc.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is a great evangelism tool and provides children with many hours of concentrated Christian education. It is very adaptable in that it can be done in the evening, on a weekend, during the day. You can partner with another church in your community and share the costs and responsibilities.

The Diocesan Resource Library has many VBS curriculums available to assist you in your programming. Please contact Janie Stevens or search the Resource Library online for more information.

Pentecost at Home

Prayers for the Season

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all schools, colleges and universities (especially...) and for those who teach and those who learn. Bless N. who has completed this current course in her education. Be with her as she embarks on the next state of her life's journey and grant her many opportunities for sound learning, new discoveries and the pursuit of wisdom. And may all her questioning bring her ever closer to you, the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Anne Kitch, "For a Graduation",
The Anglican Family Prayer Book)

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Blessed are You, Lord our God, for you have created a wide and wonderful world in which we can travel. We ask your blessing upon (names) as they are about to leave on a trip. May You, Holy Guide of Travelers, be their ever-near companion, spreading the road before them with beauty and adventure. Free that road from harm and evil, and send as their escorts Your holy spirits, Your angelic messengers, who accompanied the holy ones of days past. On this journey may they take with them as part of their traveling equipment a heart wrapped in wonder with which to rejoice in all they shall meet.

Along with that clothing of wonder, may they have room in their luggage for a mystic map. With the aid of this map, may they read the invisible meanings of the events of this journey - of possible disappointments and delays, of possible breakdowns and rainy day troubles. Always awake to Your Sacred Presence and to Your divine compassionate love, they shall see in all that happens, in the beautiful and the bad, the mystery of Your holy plan.

May the blessing of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit be upon you throughout this trip; may it shield you from all harm and bring you home again in safety and in peace. Amen.

(Edward Hays, "Blessing for those about to leave on a journey", Prayers for the Domestic Church)

Library Resources

The Diocesan Resource Library has a number of Pentecost Resources to assist you in your programming needs for this season. To access a catalogue listing, please go to <http://weblibrary.epicenter.org:8090/> and enter keyword "Pentecost". You might try various combinations of Pentecost resources, Pentecost curriculum, etc. to obtain the most listings. And it is not too early to begin planning your Advent/Christmas/Epiphany programs and events. We have a large number of such resources and are also very happy to visit with you to help you plan your programs. We are happy to assist you in any way and also happy to mail resources to you. Please be mindful of the 2 week check out period and let us know if you wish to keep resources longer than that.

This is also a good time to look through your libraries and return those items you checked out from the diocesan resource center during the year.

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