

Pentecost and the Pre-Existent God of the Holy Trinity

By Rev. Frank Wyche, Pastor

Christianity affirms that there is only one God, who exists in three Persons: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

This Holy Trinity, or Triune God, is a mystery beyond human understanding. God is one, but God is three. God the Father is God, always was God, and always will be God; God the Son is God, always was God, and always will be God; and God the Holy Spirit is God, always was God, and always will be God. And yet God is one, always was one and always will be one.

Again, this is a mystery beyond human understanding. As humans, we try to explain the Holy Trinity, but are limited in our examples, since everything in earthly existence is either one or three, or else requires dividing the whole into three separate parts.

One of the classic attempts to explain the Trinity is the shamrock (a three-leaf clover), which St. Patrick famously used to show pagans in Ireland that God was one, yet God was three. In the same way, you haven't got a shamrock unless you have three leaves. We may be able to point to and talk about the three different petals, but it is only when all three are together as one that we actually have a shamrock.

Another example is the egg, which consists of an outer shell, an inner white, and the inner yellow yolk. You don't have a whole egg unless you have the one thing that is made up of the three.

We use these examples because we are trying to make it possible to understand that God is One, even though God exists in the three Persons of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We also affirm that there has never been a time when God did not exist. So, if God has always existed, and if the Father is God, then God the Father has always existed.

And if God has always existed, and the Son is God, then God the Son has always existed. That means that God the Son existed even before Jesus was born to the virgin Mary, which we celebrate at Christmas.

And if God has always existed, and the Holy Spirit is God, then God the Holy Spirit has always existed. That



Thursday, May 2 – 61st annual *National Day of Prayer*

Sunday, May 5 – 6th *Sunday of Easter*; Relay for Life Luncheon in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship (see article on back page); Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 9 – *Ascension of the Lord*

Sunday, May 12 – 7th *Sunday of Easter, Ascension Sunday; Mother's Day*; Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 14 – Circles 1 & 2 Meet, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 18 – Spring Cleaning Workday for Sanctuary and Nursery, 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 19 – *The Day of Pentecost*; Pentecost Special Offering; Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 23 – Session meets, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 26 – *Trinity Sunday*; the Lord's Supper during worship; Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, May 27 – *Memorial Day*, Church Office Closed

Wednesday, May 29 – PEP Club, 1:00 p.m.

means that God the Holy Spirit existed even before the miracle at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples who were in Jerusalem to celebrate the Day of Pentecost (the Jewish Festival of Weeks, which was the spring harvest festival).

We celebrate Christmas because it was the Incarnation, when God the Son became human in the person of Jesus, born to the virgin Mary. The celebration isn't that God the Son came into existence, because God the Son has always existed.

In the same way, we celebrate Pentecost because it was the manifestation, the public appearance, of the Holy Spirit in the world.

Just as God the Son always existed, but came into the world in human form as Jesus, so God the Holy Spirit always existed, but came into the world in a visible, observable way on the Day of Pentecost.

(Continued On Page 3)

Minutes For Regular Session Meeting Held March 22

The Session of Hebron Presbyterian Church held its stated monthly meeting on Thursday, March 28. Minutes of the meeting were approved at the April 25 Session meeting and are printed here:

Present: Elders James McGavock, David Obenschain, Richard Rathburn, Eric Shiflet, Joann Weikert, Jon Arneson, Nicola Cahill, Robert Christian, Treasurer Michael Ruleman, Hannah Bush, Tom Cook, Clerk of Session Robin Moyer, and Moderator Rev. Frank Wyche. Excused: Lorrie Dean. Absent: Noah Turnage and Doug Trimble.

A quorum being present, the Moderator opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with devotions from the book of John.

Clerk's Report: Session approved minutes from the Stated meeting on February 28, 2013. Session approved recommendation to reinstate Wilda Shover and Sandra Showalter to Active Membership. By request of Shenandoah Presbytery, Session started discussion of Incorporation.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Michael Ruleman presented a detailed Report of Fund Balances as of March 28, 2013 including a Budget vs. Actual Report. The general fund continues in the red at (-\$14,964.45). The total in our checking and savings stands at \$59,709.81.

Committee Reports

Fellowship/Service (Lorrie Dean, Doug Trimble): The committee will continue to do Lemonade on the Lawn during June, July and August; they are also working on an activity for the winter months.

Finance (Robin Moyer, Mike Ruleman): The committee will meet in April to discuss plans to pay for upgrade to electrical system.

Personnel (Hannah Bush, Richard Rathburn): Luis Gonzales has begun as organist.

Property (Hannah Bush, Robert Christian, Tom Cook, Jim McGavock, David Obenschain, Doug Trimble, and Noah Turnage): Work on electric project is two-thirds completed. Plaster work was more than anticipated but all work has been completed. Work can now begin on the kitchen. A church workday will be scheduled for spring cleaning inside.

Worship (Joann Weikert, Hannah Bush): Joann Weikert handed out minutes from last meeting. The Hebron Youth will assist Flower Committee in decorating cross for Easter. A signup sheet is posted to help with the Easter Sunday Breakfast. Youth Sunday is planned for June 2.

Cemetery (Tom Cook, Noah Turnage): A tree fell in cemetery during storm and has been cleaned up.



Commitment/Witness (David Obenschain): Minutes from last meeting were emailed to all Session members. The Cub Scouts' Blue and Gold Banquet was held on March 16. A new sign is being constructed of metal and wood to be placed outside the Scout Hut.

Christian Ed (Nicola Cahill, Eric Shiflet): The Easter Egg Hunt will be held March 30 at 10:00 a.m. followed by a hot dog lunch. Donations are needed to fill plastic eggs. The Hebron Youth Scholarship Application deadline is May 15; the amount of the scholarship is \$1,000. Vacation Bible School is scheduled June 16-20. The curriculum, *Kingdom Rock*, is from Group Publishing. Volunteers still needed for decorations and for Bible lessons for VBS.

Congregational Ministries (Jon Arneson, Lorrie Dean, Joann Weikert): The committee has not met, but is keeping in touch with members for needs.

Pastor's Report: My doctor said I am doing well at my three-month checkup on March 27. I plan to start the next round of home Communion after we celebrate the Lord's Supper during morning worship on Easter Sunday. I continue to serve as moderator of the Craigs-ville church at the request of Shenandoah Presbytery while they are without a pastor. I plan to take a week's vacation April 17-23; the Worship Committee has lined up Joe Brandon as pulpit supply.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be Thursday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m.

The blessings and prayer concerns of the congregation, friends, and relatives were shared by Session for corporate and individual prayer.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the moderator at 8:10 p.m.

PEP Club Will Meet May 29

The PEP Club will meet on Wednesday, May 29, with Jo Ann Hamner from AMC Wellness Center as the guest speaker. Please join us at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for this time of food and fellowship!

Choral Society Concert Is May 5

The Staunton Choral Society will present *Praise in Many Ways*, an afternoon of music on Sunday, May 5, at 4:00 p.m. at 2nd Presbyterian Church, 201 N. Frederick St., in Staunton.

The concert will feature the Staunton Choral Society, Grace Christian School Choir, the Shenandoah Flutes of the Stonewall Brigade Band, Women of Hope, a bell choir, and others.



This event will also introduce Jesse Ratcliffe, director and organist, and Rhonda Reeser, piano accompanist for the Staunton Choral Society.

Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend!

Looking Ahead: VBS Is June 16-20

Hebron will hold Vacation Bible School June 16-20. The theme will be *Kingdom Rock: Where Kids Stand Strong for God!* The curriculum is from Group Publishing, which Hebron has been using for many years.

Volunteers are still needed for decorations and for Bible lessons for VBS.

If you can help, or if you have any questions, please contact Nicola Cahill.

Pentecost Offering Benefits Youth

Hebron will receive the Pentecost Offering during morning worship on Sunday, May 19.

This is one of four national offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), of which Hebron is a member. The Pentecost Offering goes to help youth, with emphases on Ministries for Youth, Child Advocacy organizations, and Young Adult Volunteers.

Forty percent of the offering will stay in our community, while 60% will go to regional and national programs through PCUSA distribution.

The portion of the offering remaining in our area will be given to the Central Shenandoah Office on Youth.

Bible Readings for Special Days

Revised Common Lectionary readings for upcoming special days are:

Day of Ascension, Thursday, May 9: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or 93; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53.

The Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 19: Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21; John 17:20-26.

Trinity Sunday, Sunday, May 26: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15.

Ascension is 40 days after Easter; Pentecost is 50 days after Easter; and Trinity Sunday is a week after Pentecost.



Pentecost and God's Pre-Existence

(Continued From Page 1)

God has always existed, but chooses to reveal himself on his own terms. God the Son existed before he was revealed to humanity at Christmas, and God the Holy Spirit existed before he revealed himself to humanity on the Day of Pentecost.

The first mention of the Holy Spirit is in the second verse of the Bible, at Genesis 1:2: ¹“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters” (Revised Standard Version translation).

In the New Testament, the gospel according to John tells us that God the Son, whom John calls “the Word,” was also present at Creation: ¹“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God; ³all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made” (John 1:1-3, RSV).

So the Bible clearly teaches that God the Holy Spirit and God the Son were also present at the Creation, as was God the Father.

When we speak of Pentecost as “the coming of the Holy Spirit,” we simply mean that the Holy Spirit came in a way that humans could see, just as God the Son came into the world in a way that humans could see when God the Son took on human form and was born as Jesus. We do **not** mean that God the Holy Spirit never existed before Pentecost, just as we do **not** mean that God the Son never existed before Jesus was born.

Again, all of this is a holy mystery beyond human understanding. All the same, this is what the Bible tells us, because it is in the Bible that God reveals God.

When we celebrate the Day of Pentecost on May 19, we are remembering the events described Acts 2:1-33. This was an important event in the early Church and the spread of Christianity, but it wasn't the first or the only time people received the Holy Spirit in the Bible. For example, in John 20:22, Jesus appeared to the disciples after his Resurrection, and he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” What set Pentecost apart was the fulfillment of the promises Jesus made in Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8.

Pastor Frank

Presbyterian Women's News

Circles No. 1 and 2 met on April 9. Hilda Dundas opened the meeting with devotions. The Least Coin and regular offerings were received.

Joys and Concerns were shared. Hilda announced that Scott and Julia Martin joined the church. Julia will be a member of the Sisters in Christ Circle. She also announced that Tara Ratcliff and LeAnne Simmons will be graduating from high school this year. The ladies shared thank-you notes from the college students for their "goodie" boxes.

Sandra Showalter advised she had purchased a six-foot artificial tree for the Festival of Trees in December. She shared with us suggested themes, all of which sounded very pretty and interesting.

Frank led us in a very informative and interesting Bible Study on how the early Church had to fight against adopting false beliefs which were working themselves into several churches. The scripture lessons in the Lesson Book gave examples of how the Bible warns against following false teachings. As the Lesson Book said, "Even in God's household, God's children cannot escape the disruption caused by family dysfunction. In order to overcome potentially destructive outside influences, God's children are instructed to dig more deeply within themselves to connect to sources of truth, hope, and faith."

The last circle meeting until September will be May 14, when we will study Lesson Nine.

PW Yard Sale Raises \$2,288

The Hebron Presbyterian Women's Yard, Bake and Jelly Sale was a big success again this year, raising \$2,288.10 for the benefit of Weekday Religious Education.

Sincere thanks to each of you for your donations, as well as to the bakers, the jelly-makers, those providing food, and those manning the food booth.

We are so thankful for all the volunteers who helped with the set-up and pricing earlier in the week; to all who worked so hard conducting the sale Friday and Saturday; to all who helped with the clean-up on Saturday; and to everyone who helped in any way.

We are most grateful for everyone's generosity and for all their help.

~ Betty Piner and the Presbyterian Women

Spring Cleaning Workday On May 18

A Spring Cleaning workday will be held Saturday, May 18, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the church, and volunteers are needed. Please come to the church and help us clean inside, where we will concentrate on the Sanctuary and the Nursery. Hope to see you there!

May Birthdays And Anniversaries

May birthdays are:

Evelyn Whitmore	1		
Tim Shull	1		
Anna Cahill	1		
Sharon Martin	3		
Isabel Rathburn	3		
Megan Johnson	4		
Kaitlyn Moyer	5		
Conor Cahill	5		
Michael Ruleman	5		
Sean Bratton	9		
Allen Martin	9		
Kent Shull	9		
Haskins Coleman	11	Marcie Talbott	20
John Lyle	11	Steve Cahill	21
Donna Moyer	14	Doug Trimble	21
Billie Jo Smiley	14	Bill Glover	23
Andrew Rathburn	15	Laural Johnson	23
Nancy Hewitt	16	Gregory Kirtley	24
Janet Wiseman	16	Jimmy Brown	26
Cole Kirtley	19	Ruby Durham	30
Andrew Wyche	19	Jean Martin	31



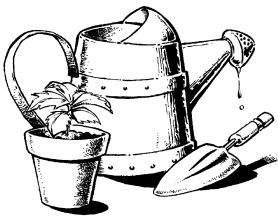
Very special happy birthday wishes to: Evelyn Whitmore, who will be 85 on May 1; Haskins Coleman, who will be 82 on May 11; Nancy Hewitt, who will be 80 on May 16; and Ruby Durham, who will be 85 on May 30,

Congratulations to John and Betty Ott, who will be married 64 years on May 14.

If you know of someone who should be included, please call the church at 885-1648, as we do not want to leave anyone out.

PW Birthday Offering Information

It's Happy Birthday time again for the Presbyterian Women, and the 2013 Birthday Offering will be collected at the Tuesday, May 14, Circle Meeting at 1:30 p.m. Anyone can contribute in May by placing your offering in the offering plate. The recipient of the 2013 Birthday Offering will be Westminster Neighborhood Ministries Child, Family and Adult Education Connection in Indianapolis, Ind., which serves the basic needs of families who live in Near Eastside Indianapolis, where close to 34 percent of neighborhood families have incomes below the poverty level. For 90 years, PW Birthday Offering projects have given refuge, security and hope to vulnerable people around the world. Celebrate with us on May 14!




MAY

May 2013

Hebron Presbyterian Church

Sunday School 9:55 a.m./Worship 11 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																								
<p><i>Each Sunday:</i> Sunday School, 9:55 a.m. Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">April 2013</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		April 2013							S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					<p><i>1</i> Property Comm. 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i></p>	<p><i>4</i></p>							
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<p><i>5</i> Relay for Life Lunch Youth Group 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>6</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p>	<p><i>8</i> Congregational Ministries Com. 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>9</i> <i>Ascension of the Lord</i></p>	<p><i>10</i></p>	<p><i>11</i></p>																																																								
<p><i>12</i> Ascension Sunday Mother's Day Christian Ed. 6:00 p.m. Youth Group 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>13</i> Commitment/Witness Committee 6:15 p.m., and Fellowship after</p>	<p><i>14</i> Presbyterian Women Circles 1 & 2 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>15</i> Worship Committee 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>16</i></p>	<p><i>17</i></p>	<p><i>18</i> Spring Cleanup Day  <i>Spring Cleaning</i></p>																																																								
<p><i>19</i> The Day of Pentecost Pentecost Offering Youth Group 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>20</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i> Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>23</i> Session 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><i>24</i></p>	<p><i>25</i></p>																																																								
<p><i>26</i> Trinity Sunday The Lord's Supper Youth Group 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>27</i> Memorial Day Observed Church Office Closed</p>	<p><i>28</i></p>	<p><i>29</i> PEP Club 1:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>31</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">June 2013</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	June 2013							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
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HEBRON HERALD

Hebron Presbyterian Church
423 Hebron Road, Staunton, VA 24401

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Website: www.hebronpc.com

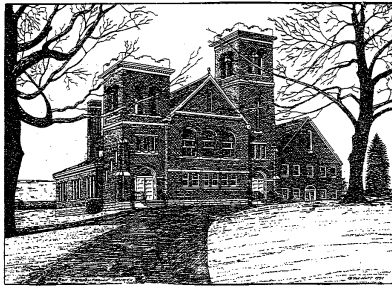
Rev. Frank H. Wyche, Pastor
Ministries available to all ages

Sunday Services:

Sunday School, 9:55 A.M.

Morning Worship, 11:00 A.M.

Youth Group, 6:30-8:00 P.M.



Hebron Presbyterian Church

May 2013						
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Have Lunch On May 5 And Help In The Fight Against Cancer

The Beverley Manor Relay for Life Team will hold a special fund raising luncheon on Sunday, May 5, immediately after worship in the Hebron Fellowship Hall, to benefit Relay for Life and its fight against cancer.

The luncheon will include barbecue, baked beans, salads, deviled eggs, a variety of desserts, and tea and lemonade.

The cost of the meal is a donation to Relay for Life. This will be the fifth straight year Relay for Life has raised money by hosting a lunch after church at Hebron, and it has always resulted in generous contributions to fight cancer, as well as a wonderful time of fellowship for everyone.

It is very important to get an accurate count for the meal so the sponsors will know how much food to prepare.

Everyone is welcome, but an advance headcount will be needed by Friday, May 3.

Please let Robin Ruleman know if you can attend this very worthwhile project. There will be a sign-up sheet outside the church office, or you can sign up by calling the



church at 885-1648, or by contacting Robin at 885-6881, or by email at rruleman@gmail.com, by Friday, May 3, if you plan to attend.

Summer Church Hours Will Begin June 2

Beginning Sunday, June 2, Hebron Presbyterian Church will begin following its regular summer worship schedule that. Changes for the summer schedule are:

Morning worship is at 10:00 a.m., not 11:00.

Sunday School is at 9:00 a.m., not 9:55.

Youth Group will continue to meet Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m.