

2 When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. 4 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak. **(Acts 2:1-4, Common English Bible)**

12 Brothers and sisters, I don't want you to be ignorant about spiritual gifts. 2 You know that when you were Gentiles you were often misled by false gods that can't even speak. 3 So I want to make it clear to you that no one says, "Jesus is cursed!" when speaking by God's Spirit, and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; 5 and there are different ministries and the same Lord; 6 and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. 7 A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good. 8 A word of wisdom is given by the Spirit to one person, a word of knowledge to another according to the same Spirit, 9 faith to still another by the same Spirit, gifts of healing to another in the one Spirit, 10 performance of miracles to another, prophecy to another, the ability to tell spirits apart to another, different kinds of tongues to another, and the interpretation of the tongues to another. 11 All these things are produced by the one and same Spirit who gives what he wants to each person.

12 Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. 13 We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. **(1 Cor 12:1-13, CEB)**

7 years ago, Pentecost landed on June 4th and that was my first Sunday in your pulpit as pastor. At that time we still had a parish associate for pastoral care and a church member who was neighborhood ministries coordinator. In less than a year both of these women had moved on and I truly became the solo pastor of this congregation. This was a big change for St. Andrew's. In the interim period that preceded my arrival you had 3-5 pastors— two on staff, two to three parish associates. And in the last installed pastorate you had 5 pastors serving you much of the time (3 on staff, 2 parish associates). It was less of a change for me; my first call was a solo pastorate and I grew up mostly in churches led by a solo pastor (my father). But it was a bit anxiety

producing for some of you. You worried about my health. You worried about the burden. I have assured you many times that I have many partners in ministry at St. A's, but I appreciate your care and concern.

I am immensely grateful to be now two weeks away from my first ever sabbatical because these have been rather unbelievably intense 7 years. Not because I am a solo pastor, but because... Just think about it. Phew. I am ready for a full stop, a deeply restorative and renewing summer. A few weeks ago someone asked me who will be in the pulpit in these three months and I directed them to the article Jan Reynolds wrote for the e-news. There will be many different people in the pulpit this summer, most of whom have a direct connection to St. A's, some at large pastors in the congregation, some members and elders in the congregation, and a few weeks with our former parish associate Sunggu Yang. And at least once a month you will have the opportunity to engage in discussion at tables in the midst of worship. There will be many voices in worship leadership this summer. Thanks be to God.

This is appropriate for the season after Pentecost for it was on Pentecost that the church was born and the church was born when the Holy Spirit was poured out on all flesh, on all the believers at that time... allowing them all to speak of God's power and glory. There were many voices activated on Pentecost. And Paul says that when the Spirit comes the Spirit brings gifts, different gifts for different people, but all the gifts that are needed for building up the church in the world.

The Church in Corinth thought some gifts were better than others, but Paul wants them to understand that all gifts are given for the common good and all have value and importance. I think, sometimes, we think that pastors have the corner on spiritual gifts, or that pastors have the only spiritual gifts that matter. But this couldn't be farther from the truth. Each of us has been baptized in the Spirit and each of us has gifts that the church and the world needs. Each of us has a call to ministry. Truly.

Frederick Buechner says that vocation is "where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." I'm hoping that this summer can be a time for all of us to get more in touch with our deep gladness so we can more fully understand that within us which

we might apply to the common good manifest in the ministry of St.A's or more broadly the Christian church in the world.

Several of you have told me that the time right after Tom and Patty's retirement was a very empowering time in the life of this church. Lots of people discovered leadership capacity they didn't know they had and found joy in Christian ministry. I hope that this summer can be similarly renewing and empowering for all of you. Supper Church will continue. Sunday Worship will continue. Monthly Mission will continue. Care and compassion will continue. Probably things we can't even imagine will emerge. And hopefully, when I return, we will be more fully partners in ministry— all of us. And why not? The Spirit of the Lord is upon us gifting us with everything necessary to extend Christ's ministry in the world.

So wait, my friends, like those disciples in that one place, pray, and the Spirit will be poured out anew, on all of you, and you will spill out into the streets speaking to the hearts of those who encounter you, and supporting one another in faith.